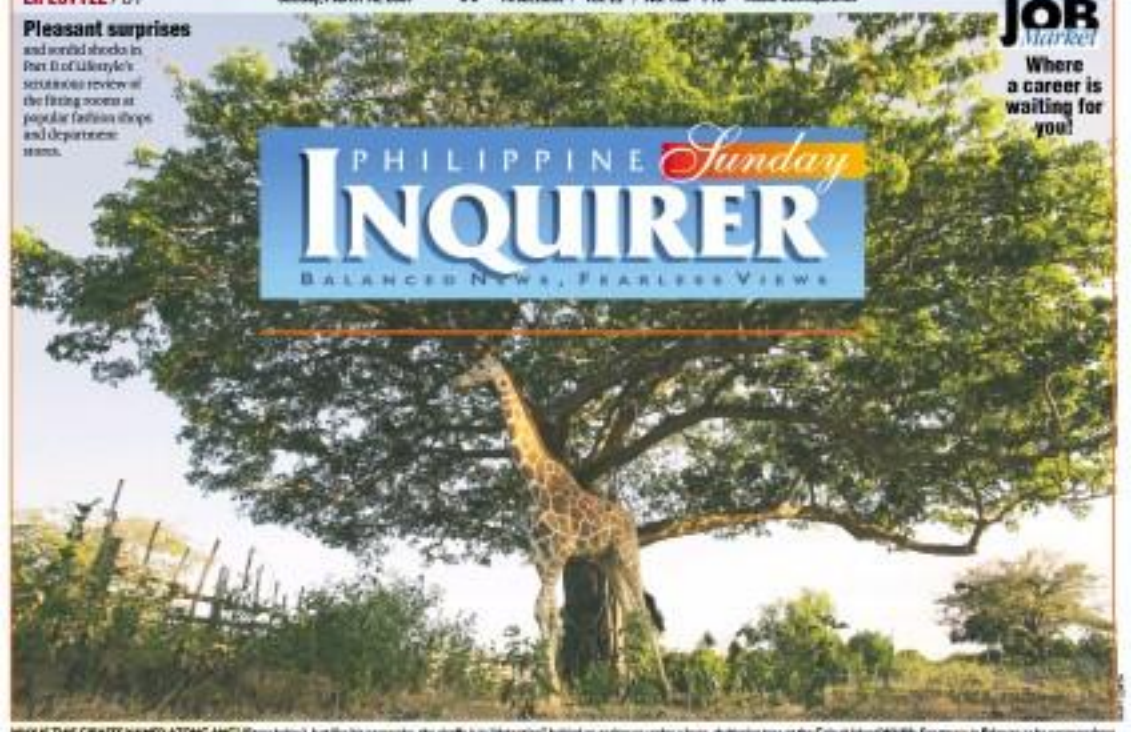
Pleasant surprises
and sordid shocks in Part II of Lifestyle's scrutinous review of the fitting rooms at popular fashion shops and department stores.

JOB Market
Where a career is waiting for you!

PHILIPPINE Sunday INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS



WHY IS THIS GIRAFFE NAMED ATONG ANG? (Story below). Just like his namesake, the giraffe is in "detention" behind an enclosure under a huge, sheltering tree at the Calauit Island Wildlife Sanctuary in Palawan as he recovers from a leg injury. The 3,700-ha game reserve stocked with animals from 6 African species was created by President Marcos for son Bongbong so he could go on safari without leaving home. The reserve is now also home to endangered species.

'Let's focus on plus points'

Ms Arroyo also says Pinoy can't be beat in productivity

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO IS UNPERTURBED by criticism from some US officials and lawmakers about the political killings, and intends to keep her focus on the Philippines' plus points.

"No one can beat the Philippines when it comes to fiscal discipline, and the Filipino people when it comes to productivity and excellence," she said in a speech at the inauguration of the P6.1-million Sulipan Bridge in Pampanga.

"We are keeping pace with the world in all aspects of economic and political stability, sharing up the welfare of the people, expanding democratic space and hitting hard on the

LET'S A6

TIME OUT TO CELEBRATE GENERATION NEXT
President Arroyo is the special guest at the home of incumbent president Sandy Prieto-Romualdez and husband Philip at the christening on Saturday of their third son Nicholas Alexander Maximilian. STAN MACAPAGAL

Giraffe named Atong Ang also 'detained'

By Terra Quimpondo

CALAUIT ISLAND, PALAWAN—EVEN in the wilds of Northern Palawan, "Atong Ang" has to endure "detention."

Since December, the four-year-old giraffe—namesake of the jailed gambling lucky of deposed President Joseph "Erap" Estrada—has been keeping around in a 5,000-square-meter enclosure at the Calauit Game Preserve and Wildlife Sanctuary.

Atong, named for his checkered coat looks, is recovering from a leg injury, which has made it dangerous for him to roam the park with the 25 other giraffes, including his best buds Rap, named after Estrada, and Jinggoy, named after Estrada's son, the senator.

Turning 5 soon, Atong is the offspring of the park's dominant male giraffe, Max and Eva.

"There was a time at the time and I saw a group of giraffes crossing the

GIRAFFE A6

Bro. Mike to endorse 12 Senate candidates, no actors among them
By Juliet Labog-Javellana

TOO BAD FOR SENATORIAL aspirants Cesar Montano and Richard Gomez.

BRO. MIKE! A6

SUNDAY MAGAZINE

Cocoy Laurel sings
Broadway's best on March 28 at the Cultural Center to raise funds to build homes for Gawad Kalinga's Doy Laurel Village in Batangas.

ENTERTAINMENT / I-8

At a Vietnamese
orphanage, Angelina Jolie is just a regular gal even as she adopts 3-year-old Pax

SUNDAY BIZ / B1

CEOs of RP's
largest corporations have a half behind the less as members of the Geneva Club of the Philippines

KAPATIRAN

Candidates for Senate in alphabetical order

Martin "Dr. R" Bautista
Born Sept. 22, 1962, Quezon City; married. Education: State University of New York, Brooklyn; Universidad de Manila; UP Manila. Occupation: Physician. Advocacy: OFWs, health care

Zenaida Jonas "Jona" Paredes II
Born May 27, 1948, Manila; married. Education: Baguio Colleges; Law: PWA, 1971 Occupation: Lawyer. Advocacy: good governance, principled leadership

Adrian "Dado" Sison
Born March 3, 1966, Manila; married. Education: UP Law; Ateneo de Manila U, Interdisciplinary Studies. Occupation: Lawyer, broadcaster. Advocacy: income tax cuts, clean air, water resource development

DWIZ 1610 The Broadcasting Power Supreme

Nestor Mata: Lone survivor longs for leader like Magsaysay

By TJ Burgonio

IN THE EARLY HOURS OF MARCH 17, 1957, journalist Nestor Mata, dead tired from a day-long campaign in Cebu City, was dozing off to his seat on the flight back to Manila when the plane suddenly plowed through two tops and slammed into a mountain.

LONE SURVIVOR A13

PMA's Magnificent 7 now Sisters of Traveling Grey Pants

By Frank Cimatu
Inquirer Northern Luzon

FORT DEL PILAR, BAGUIO CITY—TEN years ago, they were celebrities at the Philippine Military Academy.

They were known as the "Magnificent Seven"—the first women to enter and graduate from the PMA as beneficiaries of the Women in Development and Nation-building Act (Republic Act No. 7192).

When the women attended the "beast barracks" (the reception where aspiring cadets are subjected to physical and mental tests) in April 1993, the upperclassmen did not quite know whether to use kid gloves.

There was no female carnival allowy

PMA'S A13

Pinay from Baguio grows roots in the West Bank

By Lisa Sagaral Reyes
Contributor

BURQA, WEST BANK—THE GRAPEVINES began to leaf a week ago and the tender buds were ripe for picking. She told her daughter Noreen to harvest some by twilight.

Later in the evening, she blanched the leaves and arranged them in stacks on a huge tin platter. She began wrapping a ready mix of basmati rice, bits of lamb sprinkled with spices and a little olive oil and butter, in a grape leaf.

"This way. There, you fold, that way," said Vivian Guerrero-Jabbar, 39. "Like how we make *lumpia* and *empiza*," she added, referring to the sticky rice wrapped in coconut leaf and the spring rolls. Or the way Filipino grandmothers rolled tobacco leaf to smoke.

Soon, a bundle of grape-leaf rolls was piled on the tray, waiting to be cooked in

PINAY A6

VIVIAN GUERRERO-JABBAR has braved curfews, closures, roadblocks, smoke bombs and gunfire. Behind her are stencils of recent Palestinian martyrs.

Second FRONTPAGE

EZ2 Tue (Aug) 3 33 | 7 7 6 | 1 7 2
Mid-Day SUERTRES Evening 1 5 4 | 6 6 2
6/42 LUZON/VIS-MIN 1 6 7 26 29 31
₱25,312,143.20

WEATHER FORECAST

Metro Manila Partly cloudy Cebu Partly cloudy
Baguio Partly cloudy Iloilo Partly cloudy
Dagupan Partly cloudy Davao Partly cloudy
Legaspi Partly cloudy Zamboanga Partly cloudy
Tuguegarao Partly cloudy Cagayan de Oro Partly cloudy
Tacloban Partly cloudy Basco Partly cloudy

PNP: No need to revive dead law

By Alcuin Papa

DISPUTING THE CALL OF ARMED FORCES OF the Philippines Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon for the revival of the Cold War-era Anti-Subversion Law, the National Police yesterday said that was no need to "resurrect a dead law."

PNP spokesperson Chief Supt. Armand Pagdilao said the Inquirer report published the newly-revived (Republic Act) 1700, otherwise known as the antisubversion bill, would be an adequate tool in the fight against communist insurgency and terrorism.

"We don't have to resurrect a dead law. There is already a new law, the Human Security Act. The new law is sufficient," Pagdilao said.

Under the new law set to take effect after the May elections, Pagdilao said, any person or group that commits acts of terrorism as defined by the law may be considered a terrorist.

"The new law gives the government a chance to declare a certain group doing certain acts as a terrorist organization, if any person that commits terror acts that are defined under the new law, then they will be considered a terror group," Pagdilao said.

He also pointed out that Republic Act. No. 1700, or the Anti-Subversion Law enacted in 1957 following the Huk rebellion, was repealed in 1992, virtually legalizing the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP).

The law had made it a crime to be a member of the CPP.

"Under the old law, any group or persons could be outlawed by the government even without the benefit of a trial. Mere membership (in the CPP) was enough," Pagdilao said.

Only an act of Congress could overturn the law, Pagdilao added.

On Thursday, Esperon had said he wanted the Anti-Subversion Law revived so that the government could again outlaw the CPP and its "front" organizations.

Malacañang has said it is not keen on the idea of outlawing the CPP again. But it also said it was open to reviewing the law in the search for ways to end the decades-long Maoist insurgency.

Also protesting the PNP welcomed an offer from United States officials to train 40 PNP investigators involved in probing the deaths of militants.

PNP Director General Oscar Calderon said US Deputy Ambassador Stanley Schrager and Gen. John Jubes made the offer on March 14 during a briefing on the extrajudicial killings in the US Senate.

"This development is an encouraging gesture of support for the efforts of PNP Task Force Usig in seeking the truth and prosecuting suspects behind the unsolved cases of state militant activists," Calderon said.

Task Force Usig is the PNP unit formed to investigate the killing of militants.

Calderon said the training of the investigators would be a "capacity-building measure to enable them to effectively pursue unsolved cases of state militant activists, journalists and other high-profile personalities."

He also said the hearings in the US Congress regarding the extrajudicial killings in the country would actually help in clearing the problem of the unsolved killings and in overcoming the problem that hinder the solution of the crimes.

"For one, the lack of witnesses could be offset by forensic evidence that can be adduced through modern technical equipment and highly skilled crime laboratory technicians," Calderon said.

He also assured the US government that the PNP's "underlying intention is to solve these murders so that those responsible will be held liable and suffer the consequences of their acts."

Deputy Director General Avelino Razon, PNP deputy chief for administration, flew to the US in the Calderon's regarding the extrajudicial killings in the country.

Razon will brief the US officials on the PNP's findings on the killings. Philippine officials were not called in the hearing, however.

Militant human rights group said some 800 militants had been killed since President Macapagal-Arroyo came into power in 2001.

But the PNP said the number was only 118.

Activist's wife fears for husband's safety

By Fe Zamora

TALKING ABOUT THE ISSUE OF POLITICAL killings and disappearances under President Arroyo, Lita Lanot-Lanot Fides Lim trouble.

Her four children, her sister, her husband Vicente Ladlad, a political prisoner, cursed during the martial law years who is now one of 32 activists confined and 50 others are now the subject of an intensive police manhunt after a Leyte judge ordered their arrest in connection with the alleged killing of suspected spies in Inopacan, Leyte, 22 years ago.

Dreamps and Ladlad have denied the charges, saying they were all in military jails at the time the so-called "killing fields" happened from May to June 1985. Ruled Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) founding chair Jose Ma. Sison, also on the list, was likewise to prison.

"My husband is a classic ordinarist. He does not own a gun, he does not know how to fire a gun," said Lita.

'Don't torture them'

Her sister filed with anguish. Lita said she only wanted to send a message to the authorities: Enough the hostages. "I'm appealing to all of you, please don't torture Vic, Sister and the others, please."

In behalf of the families of the other accused, Lita appealed to President Arroyo to "instruct the armed forces to scrupulously abide by legal procedures and ensure the observance of Ladlad's rights and that of his co-accused activists should anyone of them be arrested."

Dreamps and Ladlad were among the many political prisoners released by the international human rights group Amnesty International to have been released by the military during the martial law regime.

Lita said her husband was a political prisoner at Camp Bukar in Quezon from 1985 to 1986.

Lita herself was caught a couple times in the new multiple murder complaint, but her husband and all those others were dropped for lack of "substantial evidence." Multiple murder is a nonbailable offense.

Sison, Dreamps, Ladlad and the other respondents in the case were alleged to have been the members of the General Committee, the policy-making body of the CPP at the time of the purge.

Peace consultant

Ladlad, a peace talks consultant for the National Democratic Front which represents the CPP and its armed wing, the New People's Army, was released from jail following the fall of People Power I revolution in February 1986. In 1999, military agents picked up Ladlad near the Bayan Muna office in Quezon City. A court ordered him released days later because it was shown that he was arrested without a valid warrant.

Amnesty International and other international human rights groups have repeatedly expressed grave concern that substantiated investigations and against convictions of state perpetrators of human rights violations were giving way to "a climate of impunity that emboldens security personnel to commit further violations in the context of anti-insurgency operations."

Abu member, Crame escapee, recaptured

By John Mikaelo, Inquirer Mindanao, and Alcuin Papa, in Manila

ZAMBOANGA CITY—A MEMBER of the Abu Sayyaf extremist group who escaped with Indonesian bomber Fathur Rahman al-Ghozi from Camp Crame jail in 2003 was recaptured in Isabela, Basilan, on Friday.

Omar Opik Lanal, who goes by the aliases Mustag Akram, Ulo Lanar and Sadia...[illegible] was arrested at about 2 a.m. in Barangay Sta. Cruz in Isabela, by a joint team from the Isabela city police and provincial police and the Marines, said Senior Supt. Panfilo Acosta, acting Isabela police chief.

Acosta said Lanal was involved in various kidnappings perpetrated by the Abu Sayyaf and was also the main suspect in the assassination of a Basilan policeman earlier this year.

Chief Supt. Joel Goltiao, the regional police commander, said Lanal, who has two arrest warrants for kidnapping and serious illegal detention issued against him, was brought to Zamboanga City for interrogation and turned over to a court here.

However, Basilan Gov. Wahab Akbar tried to get Lanal released from police custody.

Akbar said Lanal had been campaigning in the government campaign against terror and had been under the Department of Justice's witness protection program since October 2005.

"There is no case against him. He has no offense, why is he being arrested?" Akbar said.

Party-list Rep. Mujib Hataman said Akbar had been persuading the Isabela police to release Lanal.

He said Lanal worked for the governor as one of his bodyguards.

Akbar said he was ready to step up to help an innocent man.

Lanal said in a phone interview that he was no longer a member of the Abu Sayyaf.

He said he was a military intelligence agent connected with the Military Intelligence Company Alfred, he claimed to have been last connected in the success of several operations against his former comrades and had the papers to prove it.

Lanal escaped from a maximum security cell inside Camp Crame, the headquarters of the Philippine National Police, in July 2003 together with al-Ghozi and Mohammadin Ediki, another Abu Sayyaf member.

THE FINEST SOURCE for your BUSINESS NEEDS with IT FORUM RETAILING
BLDG. 1453 ARGONAUT HIGHWAY, TEL. NOS. (047) 252-1296 • 252-1119 TO 38 • (02) 403-0813
SUBIC BAY FREEPORT, PHILIPPINES (02) 711-5219 • CEL NOS. 0917) 7262824 • 0917-5187080
FAX NO.: (047) 252-5565 E-MAIL: sales@itforum.geodex.com • WEBSITE: www.sales@itforum.geodex.com

Palawan grenade blast kills 8

CAMP VICENTE LIM, LAGUNA—EIGHT PEOPLE were killed, including two children aged 10 and 11, and 20 were severely injured in an accidental grenade explosion during a traffic at a birthday party in a remote village in Palawan on Friday.

The victims were the guests of Tirso Antores, president of the Commando Brotherhood, who was celebrating his birthday in a basketball court in Barangay Cashpare, Rizal town, a five-hour drive from the provincial capital of Puerto Princesa City.

Senior Supt. Dennis Peña, Palawan police director, said the incident happened at about 1 a.m. when a member of the brotherhood detonated another member, Toto "Ulmo" Jubert, after the latter became drunk and unruly.

Apparently embarrassed, Jubert went home and returned with a grenade.

Another member of the group tried to grab the grenade but it went off during the scuffle, killing Jubert and four others outright. Three other people died later at a clinic.

"This is the result of a simple misunderstanding between a group of drunken people," said Senior Supt. Napoleon Cachuela, regional police chief, belying reports it was a terrorist attack.

Members of the Commando Brotherhood style themselves as soldiers, often wearing military uniforms and carrying hidden firearms, Cachuela said.

Peña identified the fatalities aside from Jubert as Marciel Cashpang, Mario Sinoro, Jose Ramos, Junjun Bonbon and Teodoro Garcia.

Also killed were Mario Undang, 31, and Gonzalo Serrano, 34.

Some of the wounded were identified as Rogerio Canonigan, Monsang Bering, Julie Agbac, Binsky Kindang, Bertito Salvador, Joel Escabia, Michael Alec, Julie Jadoc, Mary Hinogdan, Jovan Empang, Vele Jadoc, Harold Jadoc, Ogie Tabanglasi, Gregorio Magbanua, Tabibak Tulid and Bobo Banez.

The explosive reportedly slipped from the hands of one of the group members who had tried to take it away from Jubert, Peña said. Marlon Barrera and Robert Bagulay, Inquirer Southern Luzon, with AP

Meet the global demand with a global education.

Setting your sights on a successful career abroad?

. GREAT TEACHERS
. MODERN FACILITIES
. EXCELLENT PROGRAMS
. AFFORDABLE TUITION FEE
. STRONG NETWORK OF LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

For inquiries, please contact the Admissions Office
Tel.: 757.5588 to 91 or 818.3945 to 46
Locals 874 to 815 . Mobile: 0918.704.7810

We belong to the top 25% in terms of the Nursing Board Passing Rate
Enrollment Starts April 23, 2007 • Classes Start June 11, 2007

Enroll Your Child Now!

2007
SUMMER SPORTS CLINICS
SCHEDULE
SM BOWLING CENTER
(Megamall, Fairview and Cubao)

SM BOWLING CENTER
SPONSORED BY MILO

Call this no. for list of accredited venues.
MILO Hotline (02) 914-7111

10% OFF

Any HSBC credit card can get you both.

From now until September 30, 2007, any HSBC credit card gets you 3% off all your purchases* at any participating Caltex station. Plus, you still earn Rewards/Bonus Points or free Miles on every purchase. Don't have an HSBC credit card yet? Apply for a Malaysian Miles Visa, RED MasterCard or any other HSBC credit card today, and you won't need any other card.

CALTEX

Call (02) 878-7878
Click www.hsbc.com.ph
Visit your nearest HSBC branch

HSBC
The world's local bank

Sa 12 taon
Sa mahigit 10,000 naming naging **reviewees**
Sa 173 naming **topnotchers**
Sa mga magulang ng aming mga **estudyante**
Sa **sambayanang Pilipino...**

Salamat sa Inyong Tiwala

OUR TRACK RECORD

DECEMBER 2006 TOPNOTCHERS

Jayben Perez Matamis	1st place	Jenny Riza Abreu Banta	5th place
Juanna Pauline Henson Lao	2nd place	Mike Sherwin Ortua Lazo	8th place
Grashella Pia Cristi Silva	4th place	Gay Alonzo Tabocison	9th place
Eileen Marie Villaser Isong	7th Place	RAGRC REVIEWEE	10th Place
Chiclon Mark David Maderazo Gabriola	7th place		

BOARD TOPNOTCHERS BOARD TOPNOTCHERS BOARD TOPNOTCHERS BOARD TOPNOTCHERS

2005	2003	2002	2001	2000
45 topnotchers	48 topnotchers	10 topnotchers	10 topnotchers	16 top

BOARD TOPNOTCHERS BOARD TOPNOTCHERS BOARD TOPNOTCHERS BOARD TOPNOTCHERS

1999	1998	1997	1996	19
9 topnotchers	6 topnotchers	10 topnotchers	7 topnotchers	3

You can't put a **GOOD REVIEW CENTER** *down.*
You can't put a **GOOD, HARDWORKING FAMILY** *down.*

Let their **RECORD** *speak for it!*

R.A. GAPUZ REVIEW CENTER

Boy Abunda

CALL: 02 404-0961

OPEN DAILY

SM MANILA
9am - 10pm

MANILA - (02) 526-8646 BAGUIO - (074) 304-5488 DAGUPAN - (075) 515-8166 CEBU - (032) 255-2285 DAVAO - (082) 305-1102

Bro. Mike to endorse 12 Senate candidates, no actors

From page A1

In the autumn-wedding evangelist Bro. Eduardo "Eddie" Villarde, whose endorsement candidates would give their eyeteeth for, "It is definitely not for "artists."

"The training of actors is different from the training of legislators, and a senator can not be unprepared for legislation because the work of the Senate helps shape the course of our nationhood," said Velarde, the Informal head of the El Shaddai charismatic group.

Are therefore his "ability" in Velarde's book, being one of the qualities that he said he is looking for in the year's crop of senatorial aspirants hoping to get his endorsement.

'Bahay'

The preacher has let it be known that he will be choosing 12 candidates to endorse to his 5-million followers.

Velarde said he would be guided by the acronym bahay, which is also the name of the El Shaddai party-list group due to participate in the May 14 elections.

It is for bravery, in terms of fighting for what is right for the country; U for unwavering principles; H for honesty; A for ability; and Y for Yahweh, or being God-fearing.

Velarde concedes that these guidelines are tough.

"Strictly speaking, if we enforce these guidelines we cannot find candidates who will pass the test," he said.

Velarde cited Sen. Juan Flavier, a retiree recent on Team Unity whom the El Shaddai leader considers in his heart and hinted that he would support.

"Why is he not speaking on the political killings? If you have unwavering principles, what is wrong is wrong," Velarde said.

But then all politicians would flunk the test of unwavering principles, he noted.

Being God-fearing is an important quality Velarde is looking for in a candidate, but he said there could be "varying degrees" of this quality among politicians.

As for it, Velarde made it clear it did not stand for "artists."

He said he did not mean to belittle actors, but he believes their training is not really geared toward the difficult task of lawmaking.

The administration's Team Unity has two show biz personalities—former Sen. Vicente "Tito" Sotto III and Cesar Montano—while senator Richard Gomez is running as an independent.

'Plan'

But Velarde also hinted that he would not vote straight for any one ticket but would choose and pick from Team Unity and the Genuine Opposition.

He said his ticket would be the "9-8-7," for National Unity Ticket. He said he would claim to his followers as to his personal choices on Easter Sunday, when the El Shaddai stages a big gathering.

"I will personally choose 12 and I especially I might [endorse them to 15 Shaddai members]. I will give them an acronym," Velarde said.

According to El Shaddai leaders, Velarde usually issues a sample ballot containing the names of the anointed candidates.

Giraffe named Atong Ang also 'detained'

From page A1

dirt road. I noticed [one] lagging behind and when our vehicle approached, I saw a length of rope tied around his left front leg," said Renato Ilanlo, the park's tour guide of 20 years.

"I reported it to the park's operation center. We organized an operation to capture the giraffe and put him in this exercise pen," said Ilanlo, referring to the wood-fenced enclosure which serves as a refuge where Atong could recover.

Cruel thing

He suspects that Atong might have stepped on the rope which was meant to ensnare a boar.

Who could have done such a cruel thing?

Ilanlo said he had no idea, but in recent years the park has had to contend with people trying to sneak on the island and grow crops, despite government regulations.

"The rope cut deep enough to his leg and we really struggled to pull it out.... Since he was placed here and treated, there has been a big improvement in his condition," Ilanlo said.

A horse with no name

A caretaker looks after the injured giraffe every day, feeding him leaves from his favorite tree and spraying his swollen leg with medicine once a day. Keeping Atong company is a horse (with no name), who is also recovering from an injury.

Back to the wild

Sanyo could not say when the giraffe would be strong enough to be released back to the wild but he said the animal would be monitored closely.

Giraffes are among the attractions in the 3,760-hectare island preserve, a park created by deposed strongman Ferdinand Marcos in 1976 when he received the exotic animals as gifts from the government of Kenya.

Near kinds of ecotopes: freshwater, watersharks, islands, the patient grass, the preserve along with giraffes and zebras. They roam the white along with Palawan's indigenous animals like the Calamian deer, mouse deer, Palawan boarcat and the wild boars.

Like Safari tours

The Calauit preserve is considered a unique conservation destination in Asia as it offers an experience similar to safari tours in Africa. A tour costs P200 for Filipino tourists while foreigners pay P500.

The park is an hour-long boat ride from Coron town in Busuanga, an island accessible via a one-hour plane ride from Manila.

Experience
High Class Conference
Live Out Package Php 600.00 net/pax
Live In Package from 1,650.00 net/pax
FREE WIFI • BUSINESS CTR • GYM • SPA
No.1 J. Felipe St. cor. Gibraltar Rd., Baguio City
(near Good Shepherd, St. Joseph Church, & Mines View Park)
Tel. No. (Baguio): (074) 619-0367
www.hotelelizabeth.com.ph

Fersal Place Hotel
CONFERENCE PACKAGES
from P 495.00 net/pax/day
1,388.00 net/pax/day

FERSAL INN
Newly renovated rooms
reservations@fersalinn.com.ph
From P 650.00 to 950.00 net/pax
• P. Tuazon St., Cubao, Quezon City Tel.: (+632) 912-8609
• Annapolis St., Cubao, Quezon City Tel.: (+632) 912-8852
• Neptune St., Makati City Tel.: (+632) 891-8125
• Katipunan Avenue, Quezon City Tel.: (+632) 924-2688
• Andalucia St., Sta. Cruz, Manila Tel.: (+632) 742-7392
"Dining with pleasure at affordable prices."
Manila Reservations Office: (632) 912-2691 • Trunk Line: (632) 911-2161 local 148 • Fax: (632) 912-2693

Choose Your Own Adventure
Be one of the select few to choose their own adventure!
THERE IS A WORLD YOU DON'T KNOW... ...but it opens its doors to you on MAY 28!
Philip Morris Philippines is looking for ambitious and energetic 2007/2008 grads to join us on May 28, as we bring you to Tagaytay for one special opportunity!
Do you have the passion to succeed? Apply online to see if you have what it takes! Visit www.jobstreet.com (keyword: Philip Morris)
Application period ends on April 13
CAREERS WITH A GLOBAL BRAND LEADER
PHILIP MORRIS INTERNATIONAL

'Let's focus on plus points,' Ms Arroyo urges

From page A1

chorus of voices," she said.

Instead of dwelling on the inquiry of the UN human rights extrajudicial executions on data issues and labor activists in the country, Ms Arroyo chose to speak about the steady flow of foreign investments as evidence of world confidence in the Philippines.

"Political issues are for my spokesman (Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye) to answer," she said when the business sought her comment yesterday on the UN human probe which reached out that her administration has not done enough to stop the killings.

Bunye said Malacañang's relations remained "excellent and firm despite the issues that tend to incite international controversy."

"Our ties have withstood the test of time through governments past and will never be disputed in the Philippine-American alliance is anchored on the constant platform of democracy and prosperity, to the fight against terror and poverty. We take the investment shown by the United States in the Philippine human rights scenario as a constructive gesture coming from a time-honored ally," Bunye said.

"This government has never faltered in its adherence to rule of law and respect of human rights and is closely in step with the world human rights community," he said.

Confident of growth

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita expressed confidence that US aid would "grow and (not be) mud" to the issue of the political killings.

"Perhaps some US military assistance could be dedicated toward human rights training in the field and the needs of the new Armed Forces of the Philippines Human Rights Office," he said in a statement.

Ermita said that in the hearing in Washington, a US State Department official had said, "We would really be level additional assistance to the Philippine authorities."

"The UN (United Nations) and other diplomats have also expressed their desire to increase assistance [to the Philippines]," Ermita said.

He said Philippine government and US Embassy officials in Manila were "holding discussions on what further assistance to provide [the country] toward the fight against unlawful killings."

'Why are they here?'

"The developments in the US are another sign of the international community's support for the Philippines in fighting those human rights violations. They are not out to condemn us, they want to learn more so they can see how can help," Ermita said.

The President cited the $106-million Toyota motor vehicle plant in Laguna; the $150-million expansion of Unilab and the $300-million Chanlo shipyard in Subic as among the big-ticket investments that showed confidence in the Philippines.

"So why are they here? Why is Toyota putting its transmission plant here? Why is Honda here [whose shipyard in Subic] is the fourth biggest in the world? It's because of the confidence in our economy, because of our fiscal reforms, and those reforms are encouraging jobs," she told the business.

In her speech in Pampanga, the President said: "The closing budget gap is fueling the confidence of investors, jobs and we are speaking of well-paying jobs as evident in the finding that Philippine salaries' growth is the third fastest in the Asia-Pacific. And we are proving that good salaries are not a bar to investment but a guarantee of more profit to the firms that are putting a stake in our country."

Ms Arroyo also said that to achieve economic strength, the government had to make sure that the fruits of economic growth were felt by the countryside through better infrastructure, quality education and health services to the people.

She promised to play revenue leaks, prosecute tax cheats and smugglers, address corruption in the Bureau of Internal Revenue and crack down on "wayward spending" to the government.

Pinay from Baguio grows roots in strife-torn West Bank

From page A1

shimmering lamb stock with dipsomarico-ta-pot.

Vivian must have made mainly because every summer until fall, wrapping rice grains and lamb bits in grape leaves for the hundreds since for the past 18 years since she first came to live in the Occupied Palestinian Territories in 1996.

Amid the city clichés: "Honestly, I was a bit disappointed when I first came here. Tabong-gradual also, talagang lalong Cactus at Baguio, and I was used to the convenience of a city lifestyle.

"I never dreamed of ending up in such a racial place as Baguio. That's where I learned that silence is deafening."

Bit, far away from home, she has long resigned and lived, though she may be the last to admit it.

"But I learned to appreciate the quiet, the serenity and my friends here," she said.

She has to. There, as most, she's among the very few Filipinos in the strife-wracked West Bank.

She had heard of other Filipinos—a surgeon in the neighborhood of Ramallah to Hebron, a nun in a Catholic monastery on the outskirts of Jenin (or was it in Jericho?), a hairdresser worker in East Jerusalem, an English professor in Bethlehem and hundreds of household and caregivers in Jerusalem and, beyond the wall, in Israel.

But she has yet to meet any of them.

Disco in Baguio

In Baguio 30 years ago, Vivian met Abdel Aziz Ata Abed.

Abdel, then a junior engineering student at St. Louis University, eyed the petite girl among a group of women near the table where he sat with other Palestinian students.

Vivian was on an all-women night out, just after her freshman exams and had just broken up with her tall boyfriend. Inside, she was barely-concealed jubilation.

Abdel stood, and he would tell Vivian this on a dozen date later, that she was the only one who did not smoke and who had a glass of soda while the other women had beer and margaritas.

Getting learned about affordable education in the Philippines from Filipino coworkers in Kuwait, and with life in occupied Palestine so volatile, Abdel's brother had decided to send his younger brother to study engineering in Baguio.

Vivian thought she knew what she was getting into even after the destitute country Abdel six months after their first meeting.

"Are you sure this is what you want?" her grandfriends demanded. "Do you know that he is a Palestinian, and do you know what that means? He belongs to a people without a country, and they are persecuted, and so others can come to you, and your children, too, will experience statelessness and suffering with him."

Muslim wedding

But she was young and undaunted, and so they wed in Muslim rites.

Abdel left Baguio as soon as he had gotten his degree and professional license. Vivian began to learn how to cook Palestinian cuisine from the wives of other Palestinians, staying first for two years in Jordan, where Abdel got his first job at a construction firm.

Vivian had contacted relatives back in the Philippines, and the religious/because common ground for her and her new community in Jhanga. "I did not convert right away. Abdel did not have to convince me. I made the decision when I was ready, and I do not regret making the decision," she said.

It also helped that she's a natural green thumb, and breathed new life to a neglected yard in her in-laws' compound.

It is said that her garden is always a delight. Full quilt of greens—herbs, vegetables, wild flowers and fruit trees.

Small concessions

Vivian has braved curfews, closures, roadblocks and checkpoints, smoky bombs and gunfire, humanitarian from Israeli settlers who used to live in the hilltop settlement of Homesh, and even military incursions.

Through the years, she has seen small concessions to Western culture—like eating on a low dining table instead of on the floor, while Yi's a tall phone and then can't be "logged to be adopted" last year.

The rest, where the named Sydney, Sparky and Charlie, appeared one day as their gave the thinks their owners left them behind to Homesh.

"The kids asked me if we could keep them. I have to be their emissary before their babies. Most homes here do not keep pets like dogs and cats," she said.

Greatest fear

But despite Vivian's experiences under the occupation, she says she herself some as far from a found unsuitable. Rather, for her, it is composed of individual human beings.

Her concerns revolve around her children—two boys and two girls aged 5 to 17. Her present migrant territory her eldest child, Ahmad, who is beginning to fussy into puberty.

Her greatest fear, like any other mother of Palestinian youth today, is that her son might become a suicide bomber. She wishes that he'd be more apolitical.

"It's the safest route these days—not to be involved in politics," she said.

But she is aware that many youth that goes to the mosque gets political, even ideological. Mothers like her find their protective wings too narrow a shield for their sons.

Vivian's worries for her daughters may be put on hold (later perhaps when they are older and will have to wear long robes and veils).

She will worry later about her lack of mobility beyond her village. (She is among the more than 14,000 foreigners married to Palestinians who have not been issued a residency permit and no ID card.

Window to world

Even as she has heard struggling words from neighbors on the hazards posed by television on the children's mental state, Vivian believes that cable TV is her kids' window to the world outside the West Bank.

Ahmad is the undisclosed resident source for his mother's news, and 12 years old and brother (four), the would dubby change channels, say from the HBO movie feature "Chocolat" at the beginning of a passionate kissing scene, to the cartoon network's "Flintstones."

The sister, Ahmad around to have the privilege of watching the uncensored programs.)

It is abroad who is most Filipino among the siblings, having been born in the Philippines.

Vivian said he was raised on "Tao Bebigo" as well as on pancit and dating. Send eggs and sausages to the morning.

He asks for food like tabagong bola, chicken inasal, beef adobo, menudo and banana cue.

Vivian hopes her son would get to experience in the Philippines and earn a degree like his father.

But he is interested in physics and computer technology, and wants to be a teacher to his village. The Philippines is far from his young mind. He'd rather go to Hebron or Israel, where, he has heard, Palestinians are studying on scholarship.

Secret code

The kids are multilingual, speaking Arabic, English, Hebrew and Tagalog.

Vivian's Arabic has improved from a list of vegetables and fruits to strings of sentences. She has learned much from daily conversations with her kids. But they keep correcting her grammar.

"Tagalog is the family's lingua franca...the secret code that binds its members to the Filipino culture—...gising na, kain na cayo, nanu ya, ala na kami, hoy, ang buot ko, salamat po, ngat bagi, sige, uwi ang anyag, uwi ang galing."

In Tagalog, Vivian sings lullabies and tells the kids folk tales and jokes. It is also be her the language of anger, advice and admonition.

Exodus

The next day, the family went on a picnic at Homesh.

While the others relished broods of *maqlubi* (served beside a pungent bouffee of pine cones and twigs), Vivian gathered plants from the ground gardens of Orthodox Jewish settlers whose homes were recently dismantled.

But one star had an eye on the Asiatic palms and shrubs with thick leaves, as the other Palestinians were farmers on salvaging bushes and water tanks.

Vivian thought, too, that the plants were legal. Instead, she found a security agency, armed much worse, and therefore might not survive as easily as the native species.

But she collected some, anyway, and planted them in empty lime oil cans at home.

Perhaps she sees herself in them. Here once, at the is, like them, and yet she has raised a family of her own and found a second home, adding 'root' is the rich soil of Palestinian culture.

Your future is worth planning

VJ migration consulting | Seminar Series

MIGRATE TO AUSTRALIA

Learn about how to migrate 'Down Under' at our upcoming March seminars

DIPOLOG
Top Plaza Hotel
Sun 25th March

MANILA
Mandarin Oriental
Sat 31st March

Dipolog Please contact
Ms. May Romano-Livestong
Mobile No. 0917 7910884
Facsimile: (065) 212 2995
Ticket Price: P750
Limited Seating Capacity!

Manila Send text to register
TEXT YOUR NAME AND
LANDLINE PH NO. TO
0918 521 7264 (one msg only)
(calls will not be answered)
Ticket Price: P1000

What you will learn:
1. Assess your eligibility to migrate to Australia
2. Create a solid migration plan for you & your family
3. Australian business opportunities, jobs, lifestyle, healthcare, education, etc.
4. Australia's General Skilled Migration program

*Conditions: Tickets must be purchased 3 days before seminar date at the very latest. Tickets cannot be refunded. Seminar venue & date may be subject to change. Please book well in advance to avoid non-availability of seating.

De La Salle Professional Schools
Ramon V. del Rosario Sr.
Graduate School of Business

Practical business and management knowledge needed in today's business environment

New PROGRAM Offered:
International MBA Program

Develops the skills of young professionals seeking a career in Asia-Pacific's emerging market economies. Focuses on international management, and combines the synergy of classroom and on-the-job learning with online learning support, using English as the medium of instruction and a team-teaching approach. Fast tracks students' careers, as the program is offered in four modules, compressed into almost 16 months, and ideal for working professionals.

Our longstanding standard Programs:

Master of Business Administration
Addresses the educational needs of working professionals who seek synergy between their formal course work and its immediate direct application in their respective industries.

Master of Science in Computational Finance
Provides a pragmatic approach to using quantitative techniques in finance and the preparation needed for the CFA exam.

Doctor of Business Administration
Trains managers and academics in building and disseminating advanced management knowledge. It integrates normative discussions on ethics and social responsibility with the more profit-oriented role attributed to business.

Master of Business Administration-Juris Doctor
Combines management education for results-oriented decision-making with the legal and analytical tools needed to understand how law affects business and management decisions.

Post-Graduate Diploma in Management
Prepares students who want to earn a master's degree in management, business and related fields. It focuses on management principles, use of management problem-solving and decision-making tools, and acquisition of skills.

EXAMINATION
Date / Campus
14 April / Canlubang
21 April / Taft & Makati
28 April / Makati

For more information please contact:
Taft Campus at Andrew Hill
523-0884; 526-0260
523-4265 (telefax)
Vice-Dean Marissa C. Manuntag
marissa.manuntag@dlsbgs.edu.ph

Makati Campus at RCBC Plaza
753-4614
753-4617 to 19, locs. 107, 114 and 115
753-4614 (telefax)
Vice-Dean Tristan A. Macapagal
tristan.macapagal@dlsbgs.edu.ph

Canlubang Campus at La Salle Greenhills
721-5701
721-3001 locs. 149 and 371
721-3310 (telefax)
Vice-Dean Pia T. Montalan
pia.montalan@dlsbgs.edu.ph

Dela Salle Canlubang Campus
450-4311/13 locs. 111 and 120
Ayala-II, Biñan
lumacad@canlubang.dlsu.edu.ph

Office Hours: 11:30 - 6:00 p.m. (Monday / Friday) 8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. (Saturday)

Laura's Marine Product
(PRICE PER KILO)
LAPU LAPU (BLACK & RED) 275
TUNA (BELLY / WAGA / BAROT) 200
KURACHA (GRADE) 450
Tanigue 300 Mayo Maya 250
Yellow Fin 220 Blue Marlin 150
Lukahito 180 Pusit (Local) 180
Prawns Large 600 Talakitok 150
Kolorado 350 Pinosan 150
Visit our Store
To check our Quality
Call or Text Us at
415-9387
412-7554
0905-9270399
0906-2743842
Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company
Low...low... rates !!!
(3 days / 2 nights)
Boracay P2,888.00
Palawan 3,880.00
Bohol 3,880.00
Puerto Galera 3,300.00
Baguio 1,815.00
Cebu 3,000.00
Guimaras 3,850.00
Davao 3,145.00
not valid on holy week period
Bangkok package $198.00
Singapore $210.00
Hongkong $261.00
Saigon $382.00
Shanghai $395.00
Macau $339.00
Inclusions:
Roundtrip economy Cebu-Manila-Hotel/Resort-Manila-Cebu, Tax/Airport Taxes
TWC – Tel. No. 888-8270; 731-8201
United Tee LENDING CORP
2% CAR/TRUCK LOAN
VOGT TUBE ICE MACHINE
Available VOGT Ice Machines:
• 1KW
• 1.5KW
• 3KW/3HP
WESTEKOO MACHINES, INC.
SAINT MARY'S
College of Tour Guides
721-0938 to 39
TOURS AND PILGRIMAGES
Adams EXPRESS TRAVEL
BRAINS UPCAT Review
FEATURES
Enroll now!
BRAINS Training and Review
We Buy Diamonds! Cash Paid Instantly
Guaranteed to give you the HIGHEST appraisal for your diamonds!
Only at
JOAILLIER
Fine Jewelry
Accepts diamonds 2 carats and up professionally scored, emerald or old miner's (Antique) cut.
Tel. Nos.: 817-6855 • 815-3191 • 0926-7083012
De La Salle University
Manila
International Studies Department
is now accepting applicants for:
M.A. in International Studies major in European Studies
M.A. in Asian Studies major in Japanese Studies
for the first term of SY 2007-2008
Entrance exam schedule: March 27, 31; April 3, 2007
Classes start on May 23, 2007
For inquiries, call:
Graduate Admissions Office: 303-1378
International Studies Department: 526-5817
FREE TUITION FEE !
For 1st 500 new students & transfer students for 1st sem SY 2007-2008.
Credentials/interview only
25th anniversary of
ACCESS COMPUTER and BUSINESS COLLEGES
Tel full name to 0910-5102110
www.accesscollegedavaocollege.com
Your Child Deserves the Best
99%
Kindermusik by CTBC
If the HEART of the problem is due to POOR OR SLOW CIRCULATION (angina, ischemia, numbness, cramps, etc)
Now we have the SOLUTION.
AS FAST AS THE SPEED OF LIGHT
LASER BIOCHELATION
Available only at
BIOVITALE 448 7626 / 448 7626
Ground floor CRB Building 597 EDSA, Cubao
Senior Citizen's Discount Honored
www.biovitalegh.com Open on Sundays
LUKAS LUNAS RADYO DWSS 1494KHZ
8:30 PM Monday - Friday
The Cosmopolitan Review Center
Since 1981
OFFERS 2007 PRE-BAR REVIEW
SATURDAY AND SUNDAY CLASSES ONLY
REVIEW IS HANDED IN MARCH 4 START: April 21, 2007
SUBJECTS / REVIEWERS
REMEDIAL LAW
Dean Willard B. Riano
Justice Nicolas P. Lapeña, Jr.
Justice Oswaldo M. Pineda
Dean Carlos M. Ortega
Judge Maria Cristina J. Cornejo
Judge Oscar B. Pimentel
Dean Rodrigo V. Aganon (emeritus)
Dean Lorelei M. Dunno
CIVIL LAW
Dean Augusto K. Alguela
Justice Hector L. Hofilena
Justice Romulo V. Borja
Dean Ernesto L. Pineda
Dean Eduardo J.F. Abella
Justice Priscilla Baltazar-Padilla
Prof. Crescentino R. Orbe
POLITICAL LAW
Justice Oswaldo G. Agcaoili
Dean Mariano F. Magsalin, Jr.
Justice Rogelio E. Vinluan
Dean Froilan M. Bacungan
Prof. Jacinto D. Jimenez
Prof. Cecilia G. Dulay
CRIMINAL LAW
Dean Carlos M. Ortega
Justice Rodolfo G. Palattao
Justice Oswaldo M. Pineda
Justice Mario V. Lopez
Judge Oscar B. Pimentel
Judge Perfecto R. Laguio
Prosecutor Nelson A. Sabio
MERCANTILE LAW
Dean Ricardo L. Gatbo
Dean Eduardo J.F. Abella
Dean Ernesto L. Dimayuga
Dean Jose R. Sundiang
TAXATION
Justice Jose B. Dimaampao
Dean Abraham Espesor
Prof. Nicasio C. Catanduan
Prof. Francisco J. Sabalvaro
Prof. Rodelio V. Lumiares
LABOR & SOCIAL LEGISLATION
Dean Froilan M. Bacungan
Dean Antonio N. Abad, Jr.
Prof. Oswald N. Lumiares
Prof. Manuel A. Guzmanes
LEGAL ETHICS & PRACTICAL EXERCISES
Justice Nicolas P. Lapeña, Jr.
Dean Ernesto L. Pineda
Dean Eduardo J.F. Abella
Prof. Erdoven H. Balmes
PUBLIC & PRIVATE INTL. LAWS
Justice Oswaldo G. Agcaoili
Justice Romulo V. Borja
Dean Ernesto D. Delfin
Dean Prudencio G. Valencia
Dean Benjamin B. Dominguez
Dean Myles Nicholas G. Reyes
LAND REGISTRATION
Dir. Ramon N. Casanova
Justice Oswaldo G. Agcaoili
BAR REVIEW METHODS & TECHNIQUES
Justice Rogelio E. Vinluan
Dean Eduardo J.F. Abella
Prof. Francisco J. Sabalvaro
Prof. Erdoven H. Balmes
ENROLLMENT IS NOW GOING ON
FULLY AIR-CONDITIONED REVIEW ROOMS
FREE REVIEW MATERIALS & HANDOUTS
DEAN RICARDO L. RADAC
President & Review Director
KING JAMES AUCTION
ON-SITE AUCTION
INDUSTRIAL / ELECTRICAL / COMMERCIAL VEHICLES
SITE: BARIO BAKUNG, CALAMBA, LAGUNA (OLD CALAMBA EXIT)
AUCTION DATE: MARCH 24, 2007, (SAT) 10:30AM
REGISTRATION & VIEWING DATES: MARCH 22-23, 2007, 9:00AM-5:00PM
REFUNDABLE / CONSUMABLE DEPOSIT OF P 20,000.00
CALL FOR INFO: (02) 721-3333 | (02) 286-5333 | (0928) 633-3000
Children's Talent Education Center, Inc.
Summer 2007 (starts April 16)
SCHOOL YEAR 2007-2008
(ends June '08)
• Public approach to education
• Low student - teacher ratio • Quality teaching
• Personalized supervision
• Complete facilities • Safe environment
• Datuin Music Program • Kindermusik •
• Academic Curriculum Everything
• Chinese Mandarin lessons
HIGH RATIO OF SUCCESS IN ENTRANCE EXAMS TO THE BIG SCHOOLS
It's a fact: CTBC graduates EXCEL in the big schools!
Prof. Clemencia G. Arambulo-Diocares
Greenhills Music Studio
(Since 1968)
SUMMER & SCHOOL YEAR 2007 - 2008
'where talent is nurtured into excellence'
Courses Offered:
• Piano (Suzuki or Traditional)
• Suzuki Violin • Suzuki Cello • Voice
• Music Theory
• Acoustic Guitar • Suzuki Flute
• Suzuki Pedagogy for Teachers
• Group Art Lessons for Beginners & Advanced
ENROLLMENT ONGOING
Prof. Clemencia G. Arambulo-Diocares

It's Angara's turn to gripe: Team Unity sked in disarray

By Cynthia D. Balana

TACLOBAN CITY—DESPITE THE seasonal resources at its disposal, grumbling from its senatorial candidates is ranking its toll on Team Unity's campaign.

First, senior Cesar Montano had complained about the lack of financial support in earlier campaigns. He was followed by Sultan Jamalul Kiram who echoed the same problem.

Yesterday, undersecretary Sen. Edgardo Angara flared up because of what he described as a "logistical horror" in their campaign sorties.

Angara, team leader of five Team Unity-senatorial candidates who arrived here Thursday to campaign, said the Leyte campaign schedules were in disarray.

Pilde Angara some fifteen orders: Senators Joker Arroyo and Ralph Recto, former Presidential Chief-of-Staff Mike Defensor and Bohol Gov. Lito "Edsel" Lapuz.

Angara said those handling their entries in Leyte probably "did not pass a course in geography."

The team campaigned for two days in Tacloban City, one day in Ormoc City and was then asked to join other Team Unity candidates in Iloilo City on Sunday afternoon.

He said Samar should have been included on their schedule since it is connected to Tacloban City by the San Juanico Bridge.

"Andito na tayo sa Leyte hindi na tayo pupunta sa Samar, ahun pakalagay niyo. Tapos dito pa sa Ormoc, tapos lipad pa sa Iloilo, ano yun evan country? (We were already in Leyte, why didn't we go to Samar which is very near. Then we went to Ormoc before flying to Iloilo. What's this, a cross-country trips?)," he told reporters here.

"That's a logistical horror. That's crazy. Look, there's an direct flight from Ormoc to Iloilo. Either you go and take a ferry to Cebu and then take a flight from Cebu to Iloilo. Or you go to Samal to Manila. Or maybe that. We could go back to Manila. Or you already lose one day," he said.

Angara also lost last Recto and Arroyo. Reverse Ormoc on Friday to avoid the 30th Araw ng Dahon Manila rallies and not in the official schedule.

"It might appear that we're disappointing our host here," he said in Filipino.

Asked if he was withdrawing from Team Unity as a result of this, Angara replied: "Hindi naman (Not really). I'm only after efficiency because time is of the essence. Tacloban and Samar are connected by San Juanico so why didn't we proceed to Samar? I think we're wasting our time and opportunity. The one who handled it probably didn't pass Geography.

On Friday, Angara left Tacloban for Ugan to host Team Unity senatorial bets who proceeded to Bicol, News and Roces Sur.

ST. MARY OF THE WOODS SCHOOL
REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION
Preschool | Grade School | High School
Special Programs and Home Study Program
School Year 2007 – 2008
1. Birth Certificate (certified true copy)
2. Baptismal Certificate (photo copy) optional
3. Report Card/F-138(original copy)
4. Certificate of Transfer
5. Recommendation / Good Moral Certificate
6. I.D. picture – Eight (8) pcs. 1x1
ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR SPECIAL PROGRAMS DEPARTMENT
ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR FOREIGN STUDENTS
We are now accepting student-applicants for the School Year 2007-2008
844-1534 / 779-7674 / 779-7675 / 844-1815
TELEFAX NO. 815-1081

Bishop offers to mediate in Negros farmers' land dispute

By TJ Burgonio

A CATHOLIC BISHOP OFFERED HIMSELF to mediate in talks between two groups of farmers that are both claiming to be the rightful beneficiaries of land in a sugar cane plantation in Negros Occidental.

Bishop Patricio Buzon of Kabankalan, Negros Occidental, made the offer to resolve the standoff when he visited 17 farmers who are on hunger strike outside the Department of Agrarian Reform office in Quezon City in protest of Secretary Nasser Pangandaman's failure to install them and the rest of the 122 beneficiaries on the land.

Buzon told the protesting farmers that both groups should meet and thrash out their differences away from the eyes of the media, according to Nicolas Aragdon, president of Task Force Mapalad (TFM), the farmers' umbrella organization.

But the beneficiaries were divided on the issue.

Some agreed to the meeting in deference to the bishop, while the others doubted the meeting would result in their installation in a 144-hectare piece of land in Hacienda Isabel-Malaga in La Castellana town.

Backed by soldiers and policemen, Pangandaman was set to install the 122 beneficiaries on the land last March 5, but called it off after hundreds of farm workers belonging to a rival group barricaded the plantation to stop the installation.

Pangandaman said the problem in the plantation was a conflict between two groups of beneficiaries of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP).

The 122 farmers belonging to TFM were earlier awarded 144 hectares in a prime area of the 620-ha plantation, but 170 workers, who had organized themselves into the Hacienda Malaga Independent Workers Union (HMIWU), claimed that they were the original tillers of the land.

HMIWU said only 57 of the 122 TFM beneficiaries were original tillers of the hacienda.

After a series of failed installations, 21 of the 122 beneficiaries pitched camp outside the DAR office on Feb. 28, and started their hunger strike.

Pangandaman had long given the go-signal to the farmers' installation after the Supreme Court ruled in 2004 that all controversies on agrarian reform should be under DAR's jurisdiction.

The DAR placed the plantation under CARP in 1996 and granted the 122 farmers a collective certificate of land ownership award (CLOA) on the 144-ha six years later, but landowner Rebecon Carmen went to court to question the action.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Est. 22 Jan. 1985
OPINION

US interference?

IT WAS ANOTHER DRAMATIC HEARING IN THE halls of the US Congress, made even more riveting by the calm demeanor of the woman at the center of the hearing. The issue involved the use of violence by government forces and possible tortures by high public officials—and all of Washington, D.C., it seemed, had turned out to witness the event, or watch it on screen.

EDITORIAL

No, it was not the US Senate's inquiry into extrajudicial killings in the Philippines, held on March 14 and chaired by Sen. Barbara Boxer of the subcommittee on East Asian and Pacific affairs. Boxer was a calm and forceful presence, too, but that hearing largely went unnoticed in the American press.

What caught the US media's obsessive attention was Victoria Plame Wilson, the former undercover Central Intelligence Agency operative who was "outed" by the Bush administration for what she called "purely political motives." After four years of silence, she finally testified on March 16 before the committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the US House of Representatives.

We point this out because it helps provide some of the context for the Boxer hearing on extrajudicial killings in the Philippines. In the first place, both legislative inquiries took place because the Democrats have regained control of both houses of Congress. Now the machinations of the Bush administration in creating a false, fabricated rationale for invading Iraq in 2003 are under investigation; human rights abuses—not usually high priority items in the Republican agenda—in countries that receive US aid are also under scrutiny precisely because the Democrats are back in charge in Congress.

In the second place, both inquiries are a function of the US Congress' check-and-balance role; in other words, their ultimate object of attention is the conduct of the American executive department.

It was clearly pressure in the United States that led to the Boxer hearing; reports of hundreds of politically motivated assassinations in the Philippines, a number of them involving religious leaders in the countryside, had moved affiliated churches in the United States to press the Senate for an investigation. The Senate finally moved, in large part because the Philippines continues to receive military and other forms of aid from the United States.

Necessarily, a number of those invited to testify belonged to leftist groups in the Philippines, because many of the victims came from their ranks. But top State Department officials Eric John and Jonathan Farrar also testified, as well as other resource persons.

Does the Boxer inquiry constitute interference in Philippine political affairs? We say No, for two specific reasons. We say this despite the well-known fact that the US government still exercises inordinate influence in the Philippines. (To give only one recent example: the Arroyo administration broke Philippine law and recognized on the independence of the judiciary when it transferred convicted rapist Lance Corporal Daniel Smith to the US embassy without a court order—obviously in a bid to please American officialdom.)

We've been here before. We've welcomed official US interest in Philippine affairs before—during the Marcos years, when increasingly all legal avenues for redress were blocked, and the dictatorship controlled mass media. That is why it strikes us as absurd that administration allies and Marcos opportunists like Rep. Antonio Carpio and Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile foreign intervention now, have they forgotten Stephen Solarz and other friends of Philippine democracy?

The crisis is out of control. How many political assassinations does it take before we can call the killing spree a crisis of international dimension? State Department officials who testified at the hearing were dependably diplomatic when they linked the institutions President Macapagal-Arroyo had taken to stop the killings. But the reality is, sorry, anachronistic. Yes, the President invited the UN's special rapporteur, but Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez, who will implement many of the initiatives, is actively hostile to the envoy and his preliminary report. Yes, the President created the Melo commission, but it took intense pressure before she allowed the commission's report to be made public. Above all, the military top brass remains in denial. Pressure from representatives of our main military ally may yet change that.

Publisher **Isaac Tiglao**
Editor in Chief **Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc**
Managing Editor **Joe Ma. D. Bocaco**
Associate Editor **Melanio N. Mabilin**
Associate Editor for Social Concerns **Rosario A. Garcia-Lim**
Vice Editor **Antonio T. Enriquez Jr.** • Chief, News Day Desk **Neil G. Pacheo**
Opinion Editor **Juan V. Arcos**
Regional Editor **Francisco S. Sumayao Jr.**
Senior Desk Editor **Jose F. Sonido Jr.**
Editor at Literature **Antonio Montalan**
Chief Photographer **Ernie L. Esperas** Jr.
Art & Design Director **Grace A. Velasco**
Board of Chairman **Marixi R. Prieto**
President **Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez**
Executive Vice President **Dante O. Rivera**
Senior Vice President for Sales and Marketing **Rizalina B. Manalac**
Vice President for Finance **Ma. Elizabeth B. Tiu**
Vice President for Operations **Jesus Jesse B. Tiu**
Publisher Emeritus **Leona Kalaw Tiu**

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, distributed or transmitted in any form or by any means, including photocopying, recording or other electronic or mechanical methods, without the prior written permission of the publisher, except in the case of brief quotations embodied in critical reviews and certain other noncommercial uses permitted by copyright law.

Cleansing the Senate

SEPARATE OPINION

Jaygood A. Cruz

THE ANNUAL LAW OF 1916 REPLACED THE unicameral Philippine Assembly with a bicameral Philippine Legislature consisting of a Senate and a House of Representatives. The innovative Senate was to be elected from bigger districts composed of several smaller districts from which the members of the House of Representatives were to be chosen. The senator was supposedly to be the political linguist of the senatorial district and this architecture helped improve of the representatives from its component districts.

In 1943, the Unicameral Congress of the Philippines was created in place of the unicameral National Assembly, but with one important modification. Instead of being elected from the old senatorial districts as under the Jones Law, the members of the new Senate would henceforth be chosen nation-wide like the President and Vice President of the Philippines. The announced reason was that the upper chamber would be the breeding ground of future presidents of the country with their adequate grasp of national as distinguished from purely parochial problems.

That hope seemed to be fulfilled during the early years of the Senate with such of its distinguished members like Manuel A. Roxas, Claro M. Recto, Jose P. Laurel, Quintin Paredes and, later, Lorenzo M. Tañada, Jose W. Diokno, Jovito R. Salonga and other outstanding legislators. That hope withered, however, when the once highly respected chamber began to be regarded and remained with suddenly members supported by the Batasang Pambansa (Parliament of Puppets).

Why the CBCP does not choose candidates

WITH DUE RESPECT

Antonio V. Taguiwalo

PRIOR TO 1986, THE CATHOLIC CHURCH's involvement in politics was largely reduced to silent lobbying. However, Church militancy in political affairs has increasingly become visible and public since 1986.

Second Vatican Council. The answer can be traced to the transformation of the Church, which was initiated by the Second Vatican Council (Vatican II) in the first term in 1962 to 1965. Among many other reforms, Vatican II understood the need for the Christians' total or integral development. This means that believers must see our duty here in addition of understanding.

Integral development requires the faithful to see Gospel values wherever they are and to observe new duty do. They should be Christians not only while praying to the churches or serving in churchable rooms, but also in transforming immediate environment, including in school, working in offices or engaging their leisure.

Christianity does not merely save souls for the next life; it also liberates humans from the oppressions of the present life to enable them to develop their God-given potentials that is, to grow economically, socially, culturally and politically. Thus, aside from reaching the non-believers, the Church is also pro-life, pro-poor, pro-environment, pro-human rights and pro-principle.

Specifically, "The intellectual," writer of the 16 declarations issued by Vatican II, asked the lay faithful "never to relinquish participation in public life." Politics discriminates or misguided. Qualified Christians should be encouraged "to venture all honorable human affairs" (Gaudium et Spes).

Significantly, Vatican II emphasized the importance of the laity. Whereas in the past, lay involvement in the Church was organized merely as assistance to the apostolate of the hierarchy, human development and the Church's evangelization established the "interconnections of the faithful" and their capability "to dignity and in mission" to the clergy. They are not mere deposits or helpers of priests; they are co-workers and collaborators in serving God.

Second Plenary Council of the Philippines. Echoing the teachings of Vatican II, the Second Plenary Council of the Philippines (PCP II) was convened in Manila on Jan. 20 to Feb. 17, 1991. For the first time in the history of the Church, selected lay leaders were invited to participate in its "lawmaking" body (involvement of Christians in public life was expressly declared in PCP II Resolution 38, which I quote as follows:

"1. Lay leaders and workers in responsible positions in our society must help form the civic conscience of the voting population and resist to explicitly promote the election to public office of leaders of no integrity." On the other hand, the second paragraph urges the "necessity to withdraw from partisan politics . . . to avoid identification of the Church," stressing the point of the candidates are Catholics. In a lay participation in PCP II, I remember quite vividly the emphasis given during our deliberations to these declarations of the laity and the clergy.

In fact as I know, the Church has does not encourage direct clergy intervention in State or partisan affairs (like endorsing candidates), considering that the Universal Church is active in evangelical work not only in the Philippines but in many other countries, like China and Vietnam. Instead, the exceptional mission of the Church would be hindered if the civil authorities to have imminent harmful suspicion of its political activities.

Preference in partisan activities. Given this background, it is no wonder that the Bishop-Legal Legislators, presidents of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP), appear not to express clear "likes" or "dislikes" or to endorse candidates. For the May 14 senatorial elections, he explained that to "declare as (to be faithful) whom to vote for is as bad as buying their votes," so considering that the CBCP has condemned the politics of "guns, goons and gold," emphasis here on gold.

Now further due there is no national Catholic unless by that can command such cohesive or obligation. Each archdiocese/diocese in the country is governed by each archbishop/bishop. It is impossible within his jurisdiction, and to impose the directly to those, not to any local opinions or figures local, nor even to the CBCP.

Considering with these pronouncements, bishops are generally best to refer to their decisions (based on their conscience) to the voters, limiting to the issuance of "guidelines" for voters, homilies, the fraternity – pronouncements. Section 26—has been actively supporting the Barlan Panel on Conflict Responsible during (PCDR), because it is a non-partisan and effective church to the promotion/election of the CBCP.

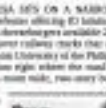
In a call for visionary leaders by example, which was similar to my own call, the PCCR has asked for the election of candidates who actively support the "Gospel of life, just society and the interests of those who are "payoff, promissory for productivity and participation."

In some cases, this may be an indirect and extremely cautious way of getting good people to public office. But the direct and indirect approach tended may be done explicit and tactful to both the Church and the State in the long term.

* * *

Comments are welcome at <fmfhart@pregator.net@hotmail.com>

Games of generals



REBEL WITHOUT A CLUE

Patricia Evangelista

NUMBER 101 TERESA SITS ON A MARION CORRUGATED shed lined with assembler offering ID laminations, photocopying services and downstairs per available 24 hours a day. Cesare Teresa Street, over rallying cracks that cut across the street, is the Polytechnic University of the Philippines.

Number 101, almost right where the road begins, is the barangay hall, a one-room make, two-story building, unimpressive. It is small.

The girth of the second floor hallway are lining with the male and female used to promote parties, more officials. This time, there are long lockers the other sides lining out. They are not there in advertise, this to hide the row of army helmets and camouflage bags that are hung on the walls.

A heavy soldier in his 50s sits, filling out a form, and I ask who I can interview. He tells me to speak to 2nd Lieutenant Lim, and mumbles down IDs and pictures, and finally goes up on tell the lieutenant. Lim comes down the stairs, past a pair of soldiers playing pusoy on the landing, he strutches to the room, long spread of light blue sheets, and speaks out of the corner of his mouth. He makes side comments I cannot hear, and maybe it's better that I don't, because I'm a girl with a camera, who is alone in a military detachment. I ask for his full name, and he mumbles "You don't know my first name?"

I ask if he's aware people are unhappy about the military's presence in the barangay, and he says there are no complaints. Talk to the community, he says, talk to the community.

The commentary I am to talking about has much to say first there, the residents tell me, have been hanging their notices of the negative and humorous, and their opinions on the evils of activist party-list organizations. The students are also under threat. Last December, PSU's chief of security caught military men roaming down the school fences, right at one of many detachments and surrounding the administration offices.

The school issued that student public duties that training one of their student dormers, two men were taking videos of isolated student speakers. The "photographers" were asked for IDs, and they refused to show any. The two men were taken to the school's security office, their identification declared fake and, according to the administration. The latter, a couple of hours handed, claimed they were in campus to meet with the ROTC. Asked why they were in the bar, he from the ROTC office, taking videos, they said it was because of "curiosity."

Jica Branch 13 lower, Col. Rolando Olaya, head of the Civil Affairs Office of Special Operations of the Philippine Army, assisted Rodolfo Antonio Jr., father of Rafman Pedro Antonio and assistant Norlan Mangaoang, due his department was one with all persons in hoping that yesterday, their children "would admire all their activities, stand on their own feet, and become good citizens and our motherland look him hold today."

"I'm writing," said Colonel Olaya, "about the desire most of our children, with regards to their studies and their joining organizations that participate in leftist activities that are not right and could possibly ruin their education. This is an important point of difficulty especially to their Parents, and we would like to get to both sides of the problem to avoid their fall into these dealings, to correct this problem immediately for the good of their education and the good of their future."

The letter "to him" Mr. Mangaoang's and known in the 9th floor of Civil Military Operations Battalion of the Philippine Army in Fort Andres Bonifacio, as the Office of Special Operations, "to ensure that our children are not brainwashed by the fronts of our children."

Such brainwashing from the school. Unfortunately, he is unaware that Isetco demonstrators already graduated in spite of his being over "brainwashing activities." It appears his house is of little concern to the school. The Isetco Protest Bank have seen in three other youth leaders, and attacks of this same organization that has led the military to arbitrarily send to jail student's to 10-of the positive investigate in Hiram Medina.

In a forum among residents in Bayan, Tondo, a rebel recruiter, a former member of the New People's Army, explaining, tapes about the terrible consequences of the youth joining party list groups. These groups, she tells the assigned leaders, parents in the audience, will inevitably create their sons and daughters to take up arms against the government. A resident, Rosalie Jacinto, 40, a mother of four, said that she has her situation. Soldiers at an interview in the graffitied bathroom hall court. On that day, over 30 long fluorescent were in the system.

The area speaks — a man shows smoke ring with the final execution of a fraternity preacher, slammed up fellow groups, all of which, he claims, are front for the New People's Army. He names them: Bayan Muna, Gabriela, KMU, KMP. All of these, he examines, are in league with armed rebels, left who support these groups are in danger of damning themselves.

Colonel Olaya takes the mike, at last. "We are not here to campaign for any candidates or group. We are not here to campaign against any group."

The difference between a leftist and an armed rebel is as different as that of, say, a Palestinian and an al-Qaida member, but it is a difference that the military conveniently ignores. May 1, 2006, Lt. Col. Jorge Segovia, then the spokesperson of the NTF, claims that the code of the 26 military teams composed of 300 field personnel is to patrol and engage in anti-leftist information campaign. "We are not targeting civilian people," says Dolorfino. "We are targeting personnel."

The claims that all this is simply an awareness campaign are being responsible citizens. They are not electioneering, they do not carry long guns; they do not wear camouflage uniforms—they are simply there to provide community service.

In Barangay Commonwealth, Quezon City, a woman carrying an officer's name, informs me happily that the soldiers are dressed formally because they have exercises. As to what they wear when running their rounds: "Of course, we wear camouflage, and to get to as much just on the uniform." According to residents, soldiers march around in all kinds of uniforms, jeans and shirts, carrying M-16s and sneaker runs into the enrichment school.

Most sensitive issue in Barangay Commonwealth, the residents explain, why the military is there. They have asked the soldiers why, and the reason is the simplest and most logical among all the thousand contradictory and complicated statements issued by the military.

"Para sa aking pro."

* * *

For comments, just text: PH 03003, name, age, location, message then send to 2600 for Globe/Isu and 5000 for Smart. E-mail or <rebel.without@gmail.com>

Cruising the Chao Phraya River

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

BANGKOK—DESPITE HAVING VISITED THIS land here or five times previously, I had never ever a little of the country outside the capital. Some years back, I was able to visit Chiang Mai in the north, but much of what I remember of that visit was centered on the masterpiece and not the fantastic bargains to be had!

This time around, I resolved to see more of it by Thai counterpart and, having convinced my husband, two friends and join me, Australian Greg Bay for a countryside visit we could both take when the workshop was over.

Little did I know that, by mailing Google, I would end up with one of the most unforgettable days I've spent in Thailand. Greg and I hadn't been long by "tourist Bangkok," I came across an ad for a "river cruise" and this was where I found our way to the eastern outskirts of the bustling.

Thai cruise around, almost an understanding when on deck, the river became more lovely, and the pillows were so inviting to chatting! I was thanks another only by the arrival of our ship-board lunch—a generous spread of Thai delicacies in a room, all of them delicious, and all of them obliging with happiness—as we had been on arrival—in the boat's cuisine and its gentle, soothing cares of food.

* * *

We were finally underway. The boat was cruising in a river about 10 km per hour, but we didn't feel it at all. Greg and I sat on the deck, with the scenery sped by: clear houses with small patches lining out on to the water, boats or wooden with their frontmosts gold-tipped stalks and tropical fronds that made each appear like the entire scenery was taking away, and blissfully narrow writing from speed boats or stilt-huts.

Next Stop, the Methala Orchid Estate a couple, known as the Wat Pai Tia, where the crew promptly took us to their private home for our lunch, a how for the water supply. Loudspeakers during. That pleasant ground, as did a welcome with dances in three dogs, and for a while I was sure had been a UN Peacekeeping mission, so many photographs for the night. But when we got off the boat to take a look around, we found out the fronts were meant to sell the "faithful" that these would be no there in the simple Thai sign. The center we found around Pier Sol Tia was typically rural—quiet no fields, a schoolyard where a game of football was taking place, and nothing to things but temples.

There I was treated to my first visit of the Thai "wat," the open-air deck transformed into an elegant restaurant, with candle-lit service for dinner. By this time, too, the other Methala had docked in order to, and I learned that our boat would be leaving the journey in the other boat, reducing my cruise and greetings across for narrower gap.

With full evening as head waiters on dinner to go with appreciators of spring rolls, followed by mouth-watering servings of satay, fish cooked in sauce, pork with ginger and mushrooms, and beef curry. This was topped off with dessert of fresh fruits such as sweet melon, of roasted sesame seeds in sweetened coconut milk, and of course, pineapple! And we didn't have a full course, the both by remarked: "That would be unbearable!"

* * *

If I had been a long day, and the river breeze made us sleepy. Resting to our super-efficient room, there was even time for a sweet shower before climbing into our comfortable beds.

The next day, we had to be up early to get to the second of required evening. My husband had gotten up earlier and was already scanning the horizon when I followed him up on deck. Around us, the river was awash in light as the sun's many fingers began to light things there so nearly white as the sun rose. All them rallied on and the Pernik group in a breakfast of rose flakes, fresh fruit and toast—though, the coffee became, still allowed a pre-departure chat, we suspect, had been prepared for the crew.

As the Methala made its way downstream, the landscape on the riverbanks gradually transformed from the residential to the commercial, as house gave way to commercial transport and monument boats, the city houses to buildings and gleaming hotels. We were now so on the journey's end, but a number of impressive sights remained to be seen. Among them was a huge Buddha that drew me to do a longish spot from shopping.

* * *

Comment is public lives@gmail.com

The world is watching

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

THE ATTACKS ON THE NATIONAL BRIDGE OPEN some are after the arise. The first came from the Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools (CGFNS) which certifies the eligibility of graduates of foreign nursing schools for work in the United States. The commission had made it known they would deny Filipinos certification to persons who would fail to enter and pass the board portions of the June 2006 nursing licensure examinations.

The second came in the form of the release in Washington visits of the United Nations Human Rights Commission's special rapporteur on extrajudicial, Philip Alston, and the European Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Affairs, Louis Michel. Both expressed the deep concern of their respective organizations over the unsolved murders of hundreds of Filipino activists and journalists in the last five years.

The third came with the hearing being convened by the US Senate Foreign relations subcommittee on East Asian and Pacific Affairs on the implementation of these killings. The chair of the subcommittee, Senator Jim Webb, has declared that he supported the Arroyo administration's fight against or side "traffickers among or soldiers involved killings and bring those responsible to justice."

The fourth is the release by the Hong Kong-based Asia Human Rights Commission (AHRC) on January 2006 of their findings on perceptions of corruption in the Asian region. In the listed 2006 region, which synthesized the responses of citizen 1,500 respondent business executives, the Philippines was ranked as the "most corrupt" in a list of 13 countries in Asia.

These identified warnings are telling the Philippine government in simple up if it is to continue enjoying the respect and support of the entire world. The issues are responsible!

A Philippine delegation, led by Rep. Etcetera Pantaleon and Chair Leonor Rosario of the Philippines Regulation Commission, went to the United Nations to appeal for the GSP+ decision. Their message was clear: the Philippines is committed to democracy in the country, and the more they will be measured by the standards of modern societies. Our government, they have globalized in this part of the world, should know that more than anyone else. We cannot expect other countries to blindly receive the workers we send out to the world without minimum guarantees of the qualifications they are supposed to have. Similarly, we cannot expect foreign investors to come and invest in our country if, in their opinion, doing business here means having to pay off corrupt officials at every turn.

More important, no government today can operate outside the framework of the rule of law and refuse to accept accountability before the world community. Especially if such a government professes to be a democratic. Indeed, free and honest government alone is no longer considered sovereignty—a defense of sovereignty against international criticisms. Every society today, with the exception of a few hermit nations, finds itself participating in a modern global discourse on justice and the basic rights of individuals. The rules for violators have also been established.

It is not to say that powerful nations like the United States will not try to shape this discourse, or to use it to browbeat smaller countries. But, even in that do, the guidelines of the debate will assess where evidence are in the matter of collective shortcomings, the modern global community that severely defends those nations when business as usual. Only those against whom there is no credible evidence of culpability or innocent may remain.

It is regrettable that Representative Jose Antonio Carpio Cojuangco, who has been arrested on murder charges in connection with the killing of political activists, has resisted his appeal for justice on a cell phone and uploaded the short video clip on YouTube. The use of this medium and this purpose leaves us no confidence in the global decision on what is or is not relevant. The world is watching, assessing us, and the Arroyo regime is running out of excuses.

* * *

Comment is public lives@gmail.com

The INQUIRER is a member of the PHILIPPINE PRESS INSTITUTE The National Association of Philippine Newspapers

TALK of the TOWN

Please send feedback to
Editor Jean V. Sarmiento Jr.

FOUR of the medicinal plants—sambong, lagundi, tsuang gubat and yerba buena—are available in tablet form.

10 medicinal plants on DOH list

HEALTH SECRETARY FRANCISCO DUQUE III ISSUED A CIRCULAR ON JAN. 25 naming bach *sinpalipa* (*Sphenodesmia churcensis*) on the Department of Health's list of "scientifically validated herbal medicinal plants."

He based his decision on "mature evidence on the clinical efficacy of sinpalipa against diabetes mellitus."

Clinical trials conducted by scientists at the University of the Philippines in Manila and Los Baños have found that leaves of sinpalipa growing in Mt. Makiling are comparable to synthetic drugs for diabetes. Other studies have established that sinpalipa fruits and seeds have medicinal properties.

Duque's directive recalls a circular issued in 2003 reclassifying sinpalipa from scientifically validated medicinal plant to folklorically validated medicinal plant.

Sales of sinpalipa-based food supplements plummeted after the downgrade. With the ruse DOH circular, five companies have expressed interest in resuscitating tablets from the leaves of sinpalipa's Makiling variety.

Once sold to the public, however, the sinpalipa tablets should be taken only upon doctor's prescription.

The government is promoting the 10 medicinal plants partly because of the "high cost of synthetic medicines," said Cirilo Galinder, acting director of the Philippine Institute of Traditional and Alternative Health Care (PITAHC), an attached agency of the DOH. A tablet of lagundi costs only P2.

Like any drug, the 10 medicinal plants on the DOH list can be dangerous if used the wrong way or if taken in doses more than the recommended amount.

The information on the medicinal plants used here came from the PITAHC.

How to prepare a decoction: Wash the leaves thoroughly and chop into pieces. Measure 2 glasses of water and 1 glass of freshly chopped leaves. Boil under low fire for 15 minutes without cover. Set aside to cool and strain. Take ½ glass every 4 hours. Gargle and swallow ½ glass 3x a day. Rinse ½ glass every 4 hours. Cough and asthma

Wash the leaves thoroughly and chop into pieces. Measure 2 glasses of water and 1 glass of chopped leaves. Boil under low fire for 15 minutes with cover. Set aside to cool and strain. Take ½ glass every 4 hours.

Wash the leaves and cut into pieces. Measure 2 glasses of water and 1 glass of chopped leaves. Boil in low flame 15 minutes without cover. Set aside to cool and strain. Drink ½ glass 3x a day. Not narrated for kidney or bladder infection.

- Wash the leaves thoroughly and chop into pieces. Measure 2 glasses of water and 1 glass of chopped leaves. Set aside to cool, and strain.
- Pounded fresh leaves can be applied directly on the painful area. Drink 1-2 glass 3x a day.

Lagundi

(*Vitex negundo*)

Cough, asthma and fever

- Pound fresh, mature leaves and apply extracted juice on affected areas 1 to 3x a day. For people who are allergic, recommendation, a decoction can be prepared by boiling 1 glass of chopped leaves into 2 glasses of water for 15 minutes. Use decoction to wash affected areas 1 to 3 a day until skin disorder disappears. Boil fabrics to kill lice.

Tsuang Gubat

(*Ehretia microphylla*)

Diarrhea

- Wash the leaves thoroughly and cut into pieces. Boil 2 glasses of the leaves with 4 glasses of water. Let it boil for 15 minutes under low fire without cover. Set aside to cool and strain. Drink ½ glass 4 times a day 30 minutes before meal. Or a day.
- Young leaves can be eaten, steamed or cooked as part of boiled soup (sabaw) (sinigang).

Sambong

(*Blumea balsamifera*)

Kidney stones, edema (nonuse) and hypertension

- Try in a small amount to see if you are allergic. Boil the leaves. Double dosage for 30 minutes. Warm in boiling water for 5 minutes. Let two to three o'clock after every meal.

Yerba Buena

(*Clinopodium douglasii*)

Mentha cordifolia Opiz

Body pain

Akapulko

(*Cassia alata*)

Fungus (e.g. ringworm (buni), athlete's foot (singit) and scabies (galis sa)

- Wash the leaves thoroughly and chop into pieces. Boil 2 glasses of water with 4 glasses of leaves. Boil for 15 minutes in low fire without cover. Set aside to cool.
- **Wound treatment:** Wash the wound twice a day.
- **Mouthwash:** Decoction

Ampalaya

(*Momordica charantia*)

Diabetes mellitus

- Use only mature seeds, dried and slowly cracked not. Adult: 8-10 seeds
  1-12 years old, 4-7 seeds
  6-8 years old, 6-8 seeds
  9-12 years old, 8-9 seeds
- Consume seeds 2 hours after lunch. If the bitterness has no effect, repeat this same dose after next week.

Bawang

(*Allium sativum*)

High cholesterol level

- **Salad:** Wash 1 1/2 glasses of fresh mature leaves thoroughly. Add a pinch of salt and pepper.
- **Decoction:** Wash the leaves thoroughly and cut into pieces. Boil 2 glasses of chopped leaves with 4 glasses of water for 15 minutes in low fire without cover. Cool and strain. Drink 1/2 glass after every meal or 3x a day.

Bayabas

(*Psidium guajava*)

Mouth and skin infections

Niyog-niyogan

(*Quisqualis indica*)

Intestinal worms (ascaris and trichiasis)

Ulasimang Bato or Pansit-pansitan

(*Peperomia pellucida*)

High uric acid level (arthritis and gout)

DOH streakers on medicinal plants

- 1997: Then health secretary Juan Flavier issues Administrative Order No. 10 setting up the Traditional Medicine Program to promote traditional medicine in the country.
- Dec. 9, 1997: Then President Fidel Ramos signs into law Republic Act No. 8423, or the Traditional and Alternative Medicine Act, creating the Philippine Institute of Traditional and Alternative Health Care, a government-owned and controlled corporation attached to the Department of Health.
- Oct. 21, 1998: Then Health Secretary Maximo Quimbo issues Circular 1998-A listing 15 "scientifically validated herbal medicinal plants"—lagundi, tsuang gubat, sambong, yerba buena, akapulko, ampalaya, bawang, bayabas, niyog-niyogan and ulasimang bato.
- June 13, 2003: Then Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit issues Circular 2003-A reclassifying ampalaya from scientifically validated herbal medicinal plant to folklorically validated herbal medicinal plant "in light of lack of evidence on the clinical efficacy of ampalaya against diabetes mellitus."
- Jan. 25, 2017: Health Secretary Francisco Duque III issues Circular 2017-0010 reclassifying ampalaya as a scientifically validated herbal medicinal plant "in light of recent evidence on the clinical efficacy of ampalaya against diabetes mellitus."

SOURCE: DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, PHILIPPINE INSTITUTE OF TRADITIONAL AND ALTERNATIVE HEALTH CARE

INQUIRER.net

Lone survivor longs for leader like Magsaysay

TILL DEATH DO THEY PART Mata covered President Magsaysay throughout his three-year tenure in Mindanao which ended in a plane crash on Mt. Manunggal 53 years ago.

Story on page A-1

The Philippines Herald's Malacañang reporter, then 31, was knocked unconscious. When he came to more than an hour later, he was lying on the side of a cliff and saw the plane wreckage down a ravine engulfed in flames.

"I was clinging to a sapling. And I was calling out, 'Mr. President, Mr. President,' but nobody answered. That was when I realized I was surrounded by death," he says in an interview recounting the ghastly scene.

President Ramon Magsaysay and 20 others on the same flight were killed instantly when the presidential plane crashed into Mt. Manunggal, Cebu, shortly after it took off from the Mactan Lahug airport on that past midnight.

Mata, who was thrown from the C-47 plane and sustained trauma on his arms and legs, was the lone survivor.

The family and friends of Magsaysay marked his 54th death anniversary yesterday.

Popular democracy

Now 81, Mata says his best memories of Magsaysay were his trips to the countryside, where he mingled, chatted at length and, yes, broke bread with the poor.

His style of leadership defined the Magsaysay presidency, and nobody believed and after him approximated it, the veteran journalist reckons.

"He must have been the best Filipino leader in genuine popular democracy. It's bringing the government to the people. And that has never been done after him. And that made him different from his predecessors," Mata says.

To shore our unforgettable emotions: While traveling in the countryside, Magsaysay ordered the presidential convoy to stop. He got off to the road and chatted with many men, walked up to a group of farmers huddled by the road and asked for a drink.

"They gave him a can of water, and he drank it," Mata says. "He loved the people, and the people loved him. Everywhere he went, he touched them and they touched him."

Magsaysay always had the "public interest in mind" and would remain there "even when Cabinet officials or businessmen turned up in his office to get his approval for a project proposed, according to Mata.

"He didn't take the recommendations of the experts at face value. He went to the people. That's why he is best remembered for that question: 'Can we defend this or Plaza Miranda?' Different answers. And he'll do it, and in fact, is devoting a chapter of his memoirs to it.

Mata was the reporter who covered Magsaysay and talked him everywhere from his election on Dec. 30, 1953, to his death three years later.

Integrity

Magsaysay had other accomplishments championed his short-lived term—agrarian reforms, American walks that brought fresh water to the rural folk, an anti-corruption campaign, among others—but in the eyes of Mata, he is best remembered for his "popular democracy."

And of course, for his unsullied integrity.

"Yes," he says when asked if he is longing for a leader in the mold and character of the late President. "Maybe we're now dealing with a new generation, somebody must come out of the womb of politics who can appreciate the stream of Magsaysay. One who knows the people; one who is loved by the people."

On the day of the crash, Magsaysay had 12 appointments in Cebu City. While about to call it a day, a political supporter had he visit a settlers' village near the airport, and he did all the sightseeing before flying back to Manila.

"He was in high spirits. He was a go-getter of leader. That's why they called him the man of action," Mata says, recalling the hectic day with the President.

It was an hour past midnight when the presidential plane "Mt. Pinatubo" finally took off from the Lahug airport. In all his trips to the Visayas and Mindanao, Magsaysay never stayed overnight in a place, but always flew back to Manila to be with Fort Lady Luz Banson-Magsaysay.

While about to board the plane, Mata heard the President mutter "Let's go!" The reporter hopped in, and sat three seats away from the President's cabin.

"In the plane, I still saw him talking animatedly to Sen. Tomas Cabili, Education Secretary Gregorio Hernandez and Congressman Pedro Lopez," he recalls.

Mata, who was found by a dog and was carried down the mountain in a hammock by a group of farmers five hours after the crash, will manage to dispatch a story to the Herald by dictating it to a nurse from his bed at the fourth east Philippine Hospital in Cebu.

"I began that dispatch with 'President Magsaysay is dead,'" he recalls. From his bed at the Veterans Memorial Hospital in Quezon City where he was transferred, he wrote 25 more stories about the crash. He was later compelled into a book.

He believes there was a reason he survived. "God must have saved me precisely because I had to tell the whole world the legacy that he (Magsaysay) left behind. To tell the country, the people, and the whole world that here was once a man who brought popular democracy in reality to his time."

ROOF SHINGLES
(Can they withstand Philippine typhoons?)

"Shingles may look good but can they withstand typhoons in the Philippines?"

Answer: Typhoon lifters proved without doubt how effectively our CertainTeed shingles withstand strong typhoons.

Our CertainTeed shingles pass the most stringent standard for hurricane application in the USA. And they not only pass the rigors of Mineyo.

"We are ready with storm plus that have ugly stitch marks."

Answer: These ugly stains are algae growth. For new construction and accommodate our Algae-Resistant (AR) shingles that not all algae will support (aside. They are warranted to protect your roof from these stains.

"But shingles are good only for houses with country look."

Answer: Shingles give any house a look of distinction. They go well not only with country themes but also classic and contemporary designs. If selected a good design, shingles look natural.

"Won't shingles corrode in areas near the sea?"

Answer: Asphalt does not corrode, ever.

Shingles are the acceptable roof products and style of choice developments in Boracay, Palawan, Subic, Cebu and Davao.

"But shingles are expensive."

Answer: As the exclusive distributor of the largest shingles maker in the world, CertainTeed (USA), we guarantee the most competitive pricing in the industry.

Besides, what is the price of good taste?

For the developers, what is the value of an upgraded style that commands higher respect and acceptance from the market?

Believe it or not.

The art is in the roof.

Multi-Line

Simply Creative

PMA's Magnificent 7 now Sisters of Traveling Grey Pants

Story on page A-1

to speak of them, and the moment's hairstyles had yet to be built.

The women were known as the "Sweet 16" when they were in their plebe (first) year. Dental and lip balm was passed down to seven because of bad grades, study problems...and even romantic intrigues.

The "Magnificent Seven" of PMA Kalaing Laki Class of 1997 were indeed the cream of the crop.

Salutatorian Leah Lorenzo graduated summa cum laude; Arlene Dreijaus and Mia Jo Camacho Yeung were among the top 10 graduates, and Aileen Somera, Sheryl Ty, Marlien Andres and Maria Victoria Manuelbo were in the top third of the class.

Laughter, sorrow

But what a difference 10 years can make. The "Magnificent Seven" have now become the "Sisters of the Traveling Grey Pants."

Their lives have been laced with laughter and sorrow, and they managed to pull through with grit, determination and lots of tender loving, they said.

But by an ironic turn they be remembered the "Lucky Seven."

A few months after graduation in 1997, Ty, Lorenzo and some of their classmates were involved in a helicopter accident.

Lorenzo was undone; Ty (Jose Cabanos) became paralyzed because of a spinal injury.

Ty returned to her hometown in the Visayas, got married and had a child.

According to Andres, Ty managed to finish another course, has set up a computer business, and is learning to walk again.

Ty is also preparing her complete disability discharge (CDD) and will be discharged as an Army captain, Andres said.

Of the seven in the first batch of women, only Andres remains single. She is a combat trial officer at the PMA and the presidential "Mo" of Cadet First Class Sandralee Mojica, the valedictorian of 190th Mangyan Class of 2007.

Updates

Manuelbo (nee Agustilo), the president of Class 1997, updated the happens on the other members of the group.

Somera (nee Reyes) went to be a helicopter flight instructor.

She was once on duty when she felt a gripping pain in her hands. She was subsequently diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis, which causes chronic inflammation of the joints—a devastating disease for someone in her line of work.

Somera, who lost a child because of liver complications, is now in Bicol (OD).

Dreijaus, who is with the PMA corps of professors, is married to Navy Lt. Antonio Tolliaren IV, a member of PMA Marching Band of 1995 and one of the leaders of the Isabel Defense Academy in 2000.

(Tolliaren is now a senatorial candidate of the Genuine Opposition.)

Dreijaus kept her cool during the media frenzy that followed the marriage. Only a few hours after the hatchet-faced she was carrying as the time.

She is now in Australia taking graduate courses.

Lorenzo (now Santiago) is also in school in Australia. At home, she is an Army captain and infantry company commander assigned to the 2nd Infantry Division in Tanay, Rizal.

Yeung (now Cuerdo) is a commercial pilot based in Mindanao.

Still close

During difficult times, Andres said, the women canceled out an order.

"We would go out on weekends and have dinner and sometimes, [she said].

They now use another only during weddings, and keep in touch by cell phone and e-mail.

They have six children, and counting, among them.

"We are as close now as we were then," said Manuelbo, an Army captain and a tank commander assigned in Capas, Tarlac.

And they take their heroines in stride.

Manuelbo, for example, now serves as the sargento of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front's Camp Abubakar in Maguindanao in 2000.

Lorenzo marked underwent an ear reconfiguration agony before becoming amiable to take them because of their child of stuff, Gen. Hay Cimatu.

"There's no professional jealousy among us. We support each other," Andres said.

FAR EASTERN UNIVERSITY
LAW AND GRADUATE PROGRAMS

Degree Programs Offered

Bachelor of Laws
Juris Doctor of Law*
Master of Business Administration
Master of Arts
Letters
Mass Communication
Psychology
Master of Arts in Education
Educational Administration
Curriculum & Instruction
Master of Arts in Teaching
Biological Science
Mathematics
Physical Education
Master of Arts in Nursing
Doctor of Educational Administration

Juris Doctor of Law
formerly offered with De La Salle University, ROBC Plaza, Ayala Avenue, Makati City

Scholarships available for applicants with Latin Honors

Test Schedules

DATE	TIME	VENUE
March 24, 2007	1:00 p.m.	Education Building (Room 101)
April 14 & 28, 2007	1:00 p.m.	Arts Building (Room 309)
May 12 & 26, 2007	1:00 p.m.	Arts Building (Room 309)

For Inquiries on Graduate Programs
Admissions and Placement Office
Email: admissions@feu.edu.ph
Tel. Nos: 736-0000; 735-9621 loc. 251

For Inquiries on Law
Email: it@feu.edu.ph
Tel. Nos: (02)735-5640; (02)735-9621 loc. 240

FAR EASTERN UNIVERSITY
Nicanor Reyes
Sampaloc, Manila
Philippines

www.feu.edu.ph

ISO 9001:2000 Certified

Across the NATION

More Asean summit anomalies seen

By Dionesa Hapallocar
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—IRREGULARITIES IN PROJECTS related to the hosting of the 12th Association of Southeast Asian Nations summit were not limited to the alleged overpriced lampposts but include the asphalt overlay project in the three cities in Cebu.

Former senator John Osmeña said he has information that suspicious nine rammended the asphalting of the roads in the cities of Cebu, Mandaue and Lapu-Lapu.

Osmeña said around 75 percent of the project cost may have gone to the pockets of people who initiated the project.

"I trust and know how much was spent for the asphalting work. The Department of Public Works and Highways was given P900 million for various beautification projects in Cebu for the summit of the Asean leaders held in January, including the P120 million for the anti-terrorist street lighting project.

"The Asean summit was not a forum for the Cebuanos. It was an opportunity for graft by the executive departments from Manila," Osmeña said.

Nagiel Bañacia, head of the Cebu City Asean task force, confirmed that it was the DPWH that implemented the asphalt overlay projects in the ceremonial routes and all other major roads in Cebu City.

Asked if the asphalting project was substandard, Bañacia said he could not make a conclusion because he was not technical person.

"Cebu City really benefited from the asphalting project of the national government. But let the public judge the (asphalting) work," Bañacia said.

DPWH officials, who rarely issued statements on the lampost issue, could not be reached for comment.

Osmeña expressed doubt over the investigation ordered by President Macapagal-Arroyo on the Asean-related irregularities.

He said the President had been directing the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission (PAGC) to investigate other issues but "no one had been put to jail."

The Visayan Ombudsman learned that some of the lampposts that were installed in Mandaue City cost P220,000 each while similar lampposts, which were also imported from China, were installed in Naga, Cebu for only P10,000 each.

The Ombudsman also learned that at least 20 of the lampposts were installed in Barangay 1, a pet sanctuary on Mactan Island owned by businessman Manuel Zamora.

THE DECORATIVE lamppost roundhead model that cost P220,000 each installed on sidewalks around the Cebu International Convention Center. AFP/DONCOM

1M tree seedlings ready for planting

LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET—THE Cordillera has produced more than 80 percent of its assignment of raising 1.25 million tree seedlings for planting and the reforestation of the region's critically endangered forests and watersheds.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources said the seedlings formed part of the department's massive seedling production program aimed at putting 20 million seedlings nationwide.

As of March 15, the region had already potted 1,301,919 seedlings ready for planting, assistant Regional Executive Director Cordillera Ayororan said.

He said different nurseries in the region have potted the seedlings, courtesy of the DENR provincial offices, local governments, schools, training centers and people's and government organizations.

The seedling program followed last year's Green Philippine Highways, where cars were planted along major highways in the country.

Arabelle said Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes wanted to implement the greening program to outnumber the bid to "regreen" not only the highways but the country's denuded lands as well.

The DENR and the National Irrigation Administration have reported that the region "lost major rivers—Agno, Magat, Chico and Abra—and most of their critical mega-dam to the rapid deforestation of watersheds feeding them.

Deforestation caused by erosion, forest fires and massive vegetation have not also spared Mt. Data watershed in Bauko, Mt. Province, a major protected forest reserve and natural park in the region.

Arabelle said the DENR is encouraging more schools and communities to join the "potting session" since they still also benefit from the program.

In Bulacan, a campaign led by environmental groups, lawyers and concerned citizens to save 1.5 million trees to restore the Ipo Dam watershed in Norzagaray town, which has been ravaged by timber poachers.

Rodrigo Alimuag, an official of the Manila Water Co. Inc., said about half of the water 1,000 hectares of the watershed needed rehabilitation and reforestation.

Manila Water, the concessionaire for the east zone of Metro Manila since 1997, gets its supply from Ipo Dam.

Alimuag said at an average of 1000 trees per hectare, at least half of the 1,000 hectares total land area of Ipo Dam will need new and a half million trees.

During her visit here on Wednesday, former Sen. Loren Legarda, a renowned candidate of the Genuine Opposition, has pledged to donate at least 2,000 tree seedlings to help in the campaign.

Legarda led the tree-growing program, Lusong Pilipinas (Grow, Philippines), during her term in the Senate. Belmar Cariño, Inquirer Northern Luzon, and Carmela Reyes, Inquirer Central Luzon

Surigao-raised Pichay returns to Ilocos roots

JEFF PAGSIPENG Pichay wins not a carriage during a swing in Ilocos Sur or Bakarta, Bocos Sur Gov. Luis Singson's residence. CHARLIE AHAD/PHILSTAR

BAGUIO CITY, ILOCOS SUR—Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay Jr., a candidate of the administration Team Unity, visited his father's hometown on Saturday and sought his paternal relatives here.

Pichay, who said he has visited Bhagiuguil as a child, left some members of Team Unity who were campaigning for him so he could go to Barangay San Julian to visit their ancestral house.

"I learned from my father the virtues of industriousness and being street-smart and thrifty," he said at a retreat that included his nephews and nieces and Mayor Aglan Sarte.

Pichay said his father, Prospero Jr., was 20 years old when he decided to go to Surigao del Sur before the outbreak of World War II.

"He was young and adventurous. He wanted to seek opportunity in other land," he said.

The provincial treasurer (in Surigao del Sur) was from Ilocos and he told my father, 'Pumunta ka dito (Come here)," he said.

He said his father settled in Cantilan town where there were few Ilocanos then.

His father started as a clerk and went on to become provincial treasurer like the one who recruited him. His mother worked as a school teacher and went on to become a district supervisor in their province, he said. Frank Cimatu, Inquirer Northern Luzon

'Bejo' declares Leyte gov bid

By Joey A. Gabieta
Inquirer Visayas

TACLOBAN CITY—City Mayor Alfredo "Bejo" Romualdez formally announced last Friday his plan to run for governor of Leyte, a post once held by almost 20 years by his brother during the Marcos dictatorship.

The 72-year-old outgoing city mayor made the announcement while some members of the Team Unity ticket held their grand rally at the Tacloban City Convention Center.

"I am announcing tonight my intention to run for governor of Leyte," the younger brother of former First Lady Imelda Marcos said to the applause of close to 5,000 people who were present during the political rally.

He later said that his decision to run for governor was "final and (there's) no turning back."

"I will run and I expect to win. The people know that when a Romualdez runs for public office, development is not far behind," he said. The city mayor has yet to name who his running mate would be.

Romualdez is serving his third and final term as mayor of this city of over 180,000 residents.

Army checkpoint, militant leader suddenly neighbors

LUCENA CITY—400 ACTIVIST group strongly condemned the army unit based in Candelaria town in Tayabas for putting up a military checkpoint in front of the house of the president of the national coalition of fishermen Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya).

Pamalakaya information officer Gerry Albert Corpuz said that about two weeks ago, elements from the Alpha Company of the Army's 22nd Infantry Battalion based in Candelaria town placed a military checkpoint some 10 meters from the house of Pamalakaya's head, Fernando Hicap.

"The one-meter-by-one-meter wooden board is announcing to the residents that they would be subjected to military checkpoint if they pass the area. It aims to disarm the people resisting in and out of our (Pamalakaya) residence," Corpuz said over the phone.

He added that military action at "short-time operations."

Lt.Col. Muhammad Yusi Addulrad, 201st Infantry Brigade commander based in Villa Hermosa, Gumaca, Aliaga, confirmed the presence of checkpoints not only near the house of Hicap but also in other parts of Candelaria, Sariaya.

"There are actually 16 checkpoints established in Candelaria since Dec. 28 as part of the SOT (special operations team) activity of the troops to ensure peace and order in our area of responsibility. Once we ensure the safety of residents in Candelaria, we will move to other municipalities," Addulrad said.

Corpuz said the military post was placed near Hicap's house to fabricate the community that the Pamalakaya leader and Andapocic party-list nominee is under surveillance and that the military was working for his surrender or arbitrary arrest once he returns to his family.

"The entire Hicap clan is under surveillance and is constantly threatened, harassed and intimidated by the military. This is the same plan being executed by the military command in Casilla in Bondoc peninsula to Hicap's family and Hicap's neighbors," said Corpuz. Delfin T. Mallari Jr. and Bobby Labadlas, Inquirer Southern Luzon

INQUIRER Mindanao

Punks find hell on the way to Sagada

By Jeff-ry M. Tupaz
Davao City

ALL HE WANTED was to see the fireflies of Sagada City during the Pasuquin festival, perhaps get distracted by their small and display of colors while he gets "high" with the kind of tranic that only he and his friends can discern.

Anderson Alcoles, 19, along with friends Arthur Villegas, 22, and Bonifoe Luz, 21, left Davao on Dec. 8, 2005, upon the invitation of a punk friend from Tarlac.

Punks are described as people who dress all forms of commercialization and dress in somewhat weird ways.

A big no, where punks post on their anger and emotions through poetry and "do-it-yourself" music, were under place in Tarlac.

Alcoles said the desire to meet new friends and the thrill of another adventure pushed him to accept the invitation.

Sigh, he said, are where punks from all over the country gather annually.

When he left Davao, Alcoles only had P300 in his pocket, which his grandmother had given him.

From Davao, the group hitched on trucks and ships, passing through Cotabato and Leyte.

Test of creativity

Establishing, he said, is always a test of creativity, especially when it comes to begging for a free ride.

It took the group five days to reach Manila.

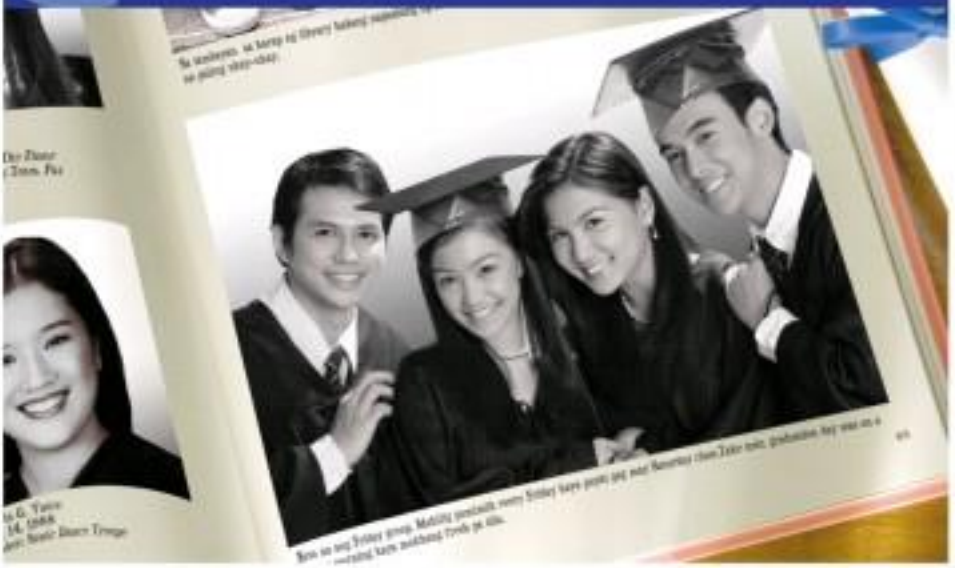
He described the travel as part of their struggle as punks, where they test their ability to survive out of limited opportunities and circumvent economic deprivation.

Upon arriving in Manila, Alcoles and his friends received unusual punk communities before heading for Tarlac.

After the gig in Tarlac, he said, his group friends Davao was joined by other punks for Baguio to watch the Pasuquin.

But when they arrived in Baguio, they, before Valentine's Day last year, no flowers in full bloom. Instead, they were welcomed by other punks for Sagada

"Gusto ko ang batch 2007, friends forever."



Posible ang tuluy-tuloy na samahan sa Globe!

Buy a Globe SIM worth P65 only! May 3 days Unlimited Texting Sampler* ka na, may libreng barkada photo pa!**

****To get your free barkada photo, show your SIM case and present the official Globe Business Center receipt in selected Kameraworld outlets. One-time 25% discount on additional copies of barkada shot.**

Angela de los Reyes He's always known as the most outgoing person of his class—because he always makes "tipid outgoing" calls to his friends and relatives in the province. He's an avid fan of

Globe KADA-SEGUNDO P0.10/second

Dial 232 + (10-digit Globe number)

Maria Victoria Asuncion Multi-faceted personality. May lokey group pero member din ng varsity wall climbing team. Kaka-girl pero laging nasa outreach programs. Magaling makibagay kaya maraming ka-text. Bagay sa kanya ang

Globe UNLIMITED TEXT

Dayshift: Unlimited text from 8:00 am to 6:59 pm - P15 lang
Text UNLITXTD15 to 2879

Nightshift: Unlimited text from 10:00 pm to 7:59 am - P10 lang
Text UNLITXTN10 to 2879

Elvin Julian This year's Mr. U.N. loves to keep in touch with his friends and relatives kahit na lumipat na sila sa iba't-ibang parte ng mundo. Kaya he uses

Globe TIPIDiTXT P50 / 5 International SMS / 5 days

Simply text TIPIDTXT 30 to 2868 to register to the promo.
To send international text, create a message and send to (+) (country code) (area code) (phone number). Service available only for prepaid subscribers.

Julie Palafox Binansagang "saki" dahil madalas mag-load nang mag-load. Para sa kanya, ayi ang pinakamatatabang Globe reload!

Globe AUTOLOAD MAX P15

Kaya, maki-Globe na kayo!

Porma cum laude ka sa

Globe Prepaid Phonekits

Motorola W375
Only P3,790
- VGA camera para ikatuwan lahat ng graduation moments!
- Stereo Bluetooth® and Class/Multi tape-ability ringtone playback
- FM radio - Free hand-held bag

Motorola C118
Only P1,790
- Perfect compact size para sa barkada, grabe
- Super-long battery life para tuloy-tuloy ang kamustuhan
- Free T-Shirt

Congratulate your kapwa graduate. Download and send logos or wallpapers.

Logos

Wallpapers

Kameraworld

batch 2007, ang lakas n'yo sa **Globe**

METRO plus

FEW CHILDREN today have heard of takang-bak.

RELEARNING PINOY OUTDOOR GAMES

City children to get kick out of 'sipa'

By Tina G. Santos

OUSE ARE THE DAYS WHEN children in the neighborhood would gather on the streets and play traditional Filipino games until the sun went down.

Most kids today, especially those who live in urban sprawls like Metro Manila, have probably never have heard of, much less participated in games such as "sipa, tumbang preso, luksong tinik and patintero," among others.

To revive interest in these traditional recreational activities, several private and government organizations have launched the "Larong Pinoy Campaign."

"It is a call to action to save what little amusement people have of Filipino games and promote the benefits of outdoor play for children," said Linda Ejiwen, president and managing director of Johnson & Johnson, a multinational company which is spearheading the campaign.

PAUL the second kick-off of the drive at the Rizal Parkway in Manila, schools and barangay communities not only in the metropolis but nationwide, hopefully, will soon become the playground of children and students participating in different Filipino games.

"Larong Pinoy will engage the kids in learning and playing traditional outdoor games and encouraging friendship, leadership, teamwork and cooperation, among them," Ejiwen said.

Dean Hercules Callanta of the University of the Philippines College of Human Kinetics said that outdoor play brings with it physical benefits, especially for children, particularly toddlers and teenagers.

"Muscular development is at its peak during these ages. Exercise and play help form healthy and strong bodies as they develop muscular strength, flexibility and endurance," Callanta said.

According to child psychologist Melissa Fernandez-Abuan, traditional outdoor games are not only a good source of exercise but can also help developskills and values among kids.

"They encourage social interaction among children from different age groups, therefore, they promote healthy competition among them. These games also challenge children to perform better not only in sports but in other leisure endeavors," she said.

"Children learn so much from playing and they become more confident," added Myann Bautista-presidente Rizal Lite Times.

Traditional games, which have been passed on and taught from one generation to another, many with them the rich Filipino tradition, culture and identity, said Dr. Ethel Pefianco, associate professor of sociology and anthropology at the Ateneo de Manila University.

"I believe there is a need to revive children's interest in these games to help them develop stronger sense of Filipino identity," he claimed, adding that in the past decade, Filipinos have become largely influenced by American culture and have embraced technological innovations wholeheartedly.

"What is lost is the opportunity to preserve our cultural heritage which is inherent in the hobbies and games, as well as the physical and psychological leadership skills that children can get from playing structured games," he said.

Authority lamented that traditional Filipino games are dying out. "In the next 10 years, we can expect less than a thousand kids to know the game mechanics of 'sipa.'"

"But it's not too late," he pointed out. "Reviving the love for our local games restores the spirit of the Filipino and passes it on to the next generation who want to know what it means to be Filipino."

Man hacks brother dead

By Nancy C. Carvajal

RESPONDING POLICEMEN SURROUNDED and wounded a relative of Caloocan Rep. Luis "Baby" Asistio when he attacked his brother after midnight yesterday.

"There was no other way to make him stop hacking his brother but to shoot and incapacitate him," operatives from the Police Community Precinct Station 8 told the reporters.

The police said the suspect is a resident of the congressman.

Chief Insp. Jose Fermino Sulmo said in a report that the suspect, Ulysses Asistio, 36, was high on drugs when he started stabbing himself with two 21-inch knives.

The incident happened at around 12:30 a.m. inside their house at Interior 129, Lalaan ng Mukhang, Barangay 11, Caloocan City.

Ulysses was later taken to the Manila Central University hospital where he remains confined. Son his brother, Jonathan Jr., 20, died of his wounds.

Sulmoria said that Ulysses attacked the victim when the latter and other family members tried to stop him from hurting himself.

He made it BIG

"As a graduate of APC, I really benefited from the internship program that was part of the APC curriculum. I realized that I was able to handle the logistics and supply chain management of a group of manufacturers. While I was studying Marketing and Advertising, subjects like Operations Management, Logistics Management and other similar subjects made me confident of the challenges in my work. Studying in APC does not only mean learning from books but also learning from experienced teachers and the internship."

Roy Shi
Logistics and Materials Control Manager

Roy graduated from APC in 2005 with a degree in Marketing and Advertising. Like Roy, you'll receive from APC excellent academic preparation and technical expertise in the IT field of your choice. Training in facilities equipped with the latest technology and honed with our intensive internship program, you'll be ready to join the mainstream industry even before you graduate.

APC. Your road to success.

Enrollment for SY 2007-2008 starts March 13

asia pacific college
CHED Center of Excellence in IT Education

An educational partnership of Foundation and IBM Philippines

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
GLOBAL Pinoy
Life • Savvy Links
SUNDAY, MARCH 18, 2007

PLDT, Smart, Globe back OFW project

THE COUNTRY'S THREE LEADING TELECOMMUNICATION COMPANIES—Globe, PLDT and Smart—are supporting the Visayan OFW Small and Medium Enterprises Summit 2007 at the Philippine Trade Center in Pasay City (March 20-24). Mobiliti is also one of the sponsors.

This section is dedicated to Filipinos overseas toiling on land and at sea, in factories, in construction sites and in the homes of the world, and whenever work can be continued to assure a better life for their families. These are their stories.

Band of brothers cooks up culinary art center in Hong Kong

By Blanche S. Rivera
Hong Kong Correspondent

HONG KONG—IT WAS SO many years ago when four boys were sent on what seemed like culinary boot camps in Manila.

Dold, it seemed, for a band of brothers to take up cooking instead of sports or arts or music. But mom Sonia Dizon, an Ilonggo cook whose home cooking had been so popular with neighbors and friends in Quezon City they often commissioned her to cook for their parties, was adamant.

"I wanted them to learn to cook and prepare for their own birthday parties and also help me with the occasional catering services," Sonia explained.

And so every summer, she would enroll her boys in culinary classes. During the school year, she would ask the teachers in Claret School to allow her sons to sell their products—arroz, cookies, buttercream, patterns and other pastries—so that, she added, they would learn the value of money and enterprise.

Classroom for DH, etc

Decades later, the Dizon brothers—Jose Alfonso, Jimson, Jay and Jonas—finally cooked up something huge. And what they serve this part of the world has been simmering for ages.

With their pooled resources, the Dizons opened the Culinary Arts Centre-Multicare in Hong Kong in November 2002, the only culinary school owned and operated by a Filipino family here.

Tucked in an old building on Wing Lok Street, Sheung Wan, the CAC resembles a typical HK home kitchen brimming with colorful spices, many ice presses, and an array of kitchen treasures.

The Dizons imported equipment from the Philippines because they wanted to make sure that the kitchen setup where their students undergo training would be replicated in their homes in the Philippines.

The CAC is a classroom of domestic helpers on Sundays and bank managers, flight attendants and other busy professionals on weeknights.

It has graduated over 1,200 students, mostly Filipino domestics, since 2002, and has evolved from being a strictly cooking school to a resource center for livelihood and entrepreneurial skills.

From only two classes—cooking and baking—in 2002, the CAC now offers at least 17 two- to 10-month courses like Asian and Western cooking, fruit and veg carving, menu planning, wedding planning, computer literacy and even upholstering.

Chefs on Parade roadshic

Its Multicare program, handled by registered Filipina nurse Rosie Blanares, offers first aid, anchorage massage, caregiver, orthodontic and medical-surgical nursing instruction courses. At least six former students are now working in Canada.

While the CAC initially involved the entire Dizon household—with dad Jimmy in charge of the administrative tasks and mom Sonia handling most courses—only Jay of the four brothers remains focused on the day-to-day running of the center.

"Culinary schools have become a trend now but we have been here even before that," said Jay, program director of the CAC.

"Some people go into this business like they're just playing, but we don't. This is a school, in every sense, for staff, continuous upgrade and training as well," he said.

Three years ago, however, Jay would either fly home to Manila or the United States to update his culinary skills.

Jay and Jimson were both coaching in an international school and doing some training for another Filipino school here that offered computer courses when they decided to start the family's culinary business.

A graduate of hotel and restaurant management from the University of Santo Tomas and a silver medalist in the 1994 Chefs on Parade in Manila, Jay recalled how maids studying at the Filipino school would ask him where they could take cooking lessons.

The queries prompted the two brothers to do their own feasibility study on the need for culinary training and found out that many Filipino helpers have lacked not only culinary skills but housekeeping skills as well.

"It's very embarrassing," said Jimson, who teaches luxury pastry and classic pastry. "They don't even know how to cook! You'd think because they are employed in households, they would be good but all of them know only adobo."

He noted that the Filipino maids here were more adept at Chinese cuisine because that is what they have to do for their employer. Their families back in the provinces, however, are not always appreciative Chinese food.

This is one reason they study at the CAC before they go back home for good, Sonia said. Girls are keen on putting up a sandwiche or bakery when they retire from domestic work here.

WITH PRIDE: parents Sonia and Jimmy Dizon, Jay shows some of the fare of their kitchen, a recipe for the family that cooks together to stay happily together. Of the four brothers, only Jay is more focused on the school's daily operations.

Said Jimmy: "Some yaghurt, dumdi na malunggay fami lotsi ha-ha-ha-ha-ha!" The family has several success stories in its book to prove that.

Students' success stories

One student had opened her own café in Mission, Florida; another is a fashion restaurant in San Francisco; and yet another a 16-foot sandwich in Kuala that was such a big hit, she opened another one in Bangalore.

There were countless others who now have their own fishmongers. Some, who are still in Hong Kong, have so improved their cooking skills with their cooking that the employers agreed to shoulder the cost of their training at the CAC.

"The return-on-investment may not be as high as other businesses, but this is more of a service to the Filipino community anyway," Jimmy said.

"We have just enough profits to sustain the business. As you see, we are still here because there is learning satisfaction among our students," he added.

Ex-Pinay judoka struts her stuff in Kiba

By Susan C. Divina

NOEMIE EIGUERRA-CANDARI's career in judo was already peaking when she got pregnant.

"I felt that my achievements in judo ground to a halt. I had a hard time accepting what happened," says Noemi in Filipino, 35, a BS Math graduate from the Polytechnic University of the Philippines.

Two days before giving birth in November 2000, the father of the child, a teammate on the national team, left for Japan on scholarship. The husband could provide financial support for only six months.

She followed him and left her son Nikko with her brother in Laguna, promising that she would come back and take her son to Japan.

Japan is not new to Noemi, who had represented the Philippines a number of times.

She first competed during the 1995 Fukuoka Taikai, followed by more tournaments and training.

Jaylo's help

In 2000, she joined a coach team which saw action in the Dinoo Asian Games in the winter months of March to May, specifically those training in Toyonaka City.

"The weather really brought out the best in us," says Noemi.

Upon her return, she was again up for a qualifier for an upcoming SEA Games. Like most national athletes, Ritzi Memorial Coliseum hosted her training.

Despite a strict training regimen, she still weighed at 52 kilos, above the competitive -48 kilos. Later, she found out she was pregnant.

"I felt sorry for myself, having squandered my time in judo," says Noemi.

In the same year Capt. Benedicto Jayla, then Judo's National Sports Association head, asked her to be his second-in-command for an organizing committee job for the SEA Games.

NOEMIE EIGUERRA-CANDARI as the goals of her career with Japanese judo instructors and judges.

The following year another opportunity arose for her, again courtesy of Captain Jayla. A refereeing seminar would take place in Fukuoka, Japan, after which participants were to earn a license. With her P20,000 savings she decided to give it a go.

At the Kodokan Judo Institute, Japan's prestigious school, Noemie went on having her skills in a sport rife with injury.

"We were not insured and we're on our own if any untoward incident happened to us," says Noemie.

She would single out the Japanese's honesty as one of their greatest traits.

On her way to work one day she lost her cell phone while on a train. "I called the person who found my unit and we agreed to meet. He returned the phone at once," says Noemie.

Noodles and eggs

In May 2002, Noemie got a cultural visa through sponsorship. Five-year cultural visa holders, she says, must have a stable income.

She found a job at a fish store but cleaning eggs and noodles the morning up to 5 in the afternoon for a year and a half. She earned 300,000 yen (roughly P82,000) a month. After work she had to rush back to the Kodokan Institute. In OFW, she says, most earn at least 300,000 yen a month to survive.

A Filipino friend hooked her up, spacing her of vase and other expenses.

"I came to the point of saying only ten dimes a day, surviving on noodles and eggs," she says.

She would always smell of a 50-percent person as supermarkets. Self-tightening measures also took her to using a rain shower room which ran for only 10 minutes per SEC/pm.

During her stint at the hotel, she was a member of the Kajiwara ng Mgamiyang Pilipino (KPM) and became a volunteer.

"I was on my way to the church when I met two people handing out leaflets to passersby," she says.

Noemie says the organization has enlightened her about Japanese love. Husbands decide on budgetary matters; wives can only have a say if they are employed; couples stay in separate rooms several years into their married lives.

Gold, silver medals

When Noemie renewed her cultural visa at the immigration office, she didn't expect to be interrogated and given an ultimatum: leave the country in one week.

"I made the mistake of telling them that I was receiving financial assistance from KPM which was against their law," says Noemie.

She bolted herself out with a gold and two silver medals she earlier won in a competition held in Japan.

"Those medals showed my ability in staying in their country," says Noemie.

She found another job at a phone card company in 2003, and got a working visa through her employer's sponsorship.

Multitasking

Her working hours started from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. She was off again from 7 p.m. if a.m. as a cook and a waitress. She earned 45,000 yen by the last.

In 2004, she made it as marketing manager to another telephone company which sells phone cards and cell units to the same year. Noemie's employer sponsored her sister Lea's working visa. She came to her left the Philippines in 2006 and is now staying with her in Kiba, Japan.

"My sister in-law took care of Nicko while I was in Japan and I'm grateful to her," says Noemie.

When her mother died in 2005, it was a painful decision not to attend her wake. She had just arrived from a vacation in the Philippines.

If not for her lawyer who offered to forego his fees, she wouldn't be able to cover the funeral expenses.

"He's the lawyer handling my visa papers. When he told me to just save the money and send it to my brother I was totally overwhelmed," says Noemie.

Teaching

In her spare time, Noemie takes the time teaching at Shirakaba which has a sports foundation offering judo, aikido, karatedo, kendo and jujido.

The foundation also donated 40 judogis (dressed to OE Mizuda where her nephew is a member of its judo team.

In January 2004, Nicko S. sadly arrived in Japan and met his father in person.

"Before they used to talk on by the phone. Now that Nicko is with us we can share a happy life together," says Noemie.

And she is trying to spend quality time with their son on the mat, throwing their weight around.

G8 plus Five launch biodiversity initiative

SUMMARY ... ENVIRONMENT

ministers from 13 major nations agreed here on Friday to mark the economic value of biodiversity as they preserve Earth's depleted stockpile of life.

The meeting at the Occidental Museum, which the 1945 Potsdam agreement that created Europe was hammered out, gathered together the Group of Eight industrialized countries and the big five of the developing world—Brazil, China, India, Mexico and South Africa.

Inspired by last year's Stern Report, a chunk report on the economic cost of climate change, the 13 ministers called for a similar study on the value of biodiversity.

They also explored avenues for resolving the global wasting crisis.

"As a global study, we will zero on the process of analyzing the global economic benefit of biological diversity, the costs of the loss of biodiversity and the failure to take protective measures versus the costs of effective conservation," they so-called President Ecuadorian said.

The idea will be put to the G8 summit in the Baltic Sea resort of Heiligendamm from June 6-8 for its endorsement.

German Environment Minister Sigmar Gabriel, chairing the two-day meeting, told reporters backwards: "It is not just an issue for bird watchers." It was treated as "a poor relation," granted only rare and fleeting attention by politicians or economists, he said.

As many as 150 species become extinct each day, or a thousand times faster than natural processes, yet there was historically little knowledge about what those species did and whether they could be of value, he said.

Biological diversity was not just the key to food supplies, through soil fertility and healthy fisheries, it also amounted to a goldmine for the pharmaceutical industry, said Gabriel.

Separately, the ministers swapped notes from dinner time to tackle global warming, an issue that remains mired in problems.

The 13 countries account for more than two-thirds of the world's carbon emissions, the invisible gases that trap heat from the Sun and threaten havoc with the planet's delicate climate system.

"There has been no organized response," stressed Gabriel, saying the goal was to find common ground ahead of the Heiligendamm summit.

Breaching a four-key security ring, Greenpeace activists aboard a sailing vessel and five Zodiac dinghies sailed up the Elbe River near to the chateau, and unfurled banners demanding urgent action against global warming by the G8.

Protestors briefly breached security to set a photo opportunity at the nearby chateau of Hans Jessel, describing the G8 as "false friends of the climate" ranges.

Earth's surface temperatures have been steadily rising for the last few decades, driven by the release of billions of tonnes of carbon gases from burning fossil fuels.

The only worldwide pact for reducing these dangerous emissions is the United Nations' Kyoto Protocol, which runs out in 2012 but still defines a set of only a few pressure aggressions compared with 1990.

But reductions will apply only to industrialized countries, not big developing ones, which do not have binding targeted pledges under the present format and are now becoming hefty polluters in their own right. AFP

FOR THE KING Skydivers from World Team build a Royal Color Flower freefall formation consisting of 16 people over Prachuap Khiri Khan province on the Gulf of Thailand, March 16. The event was held to honor Thai King Bhumibol Adulyadej, the world's longest-reigning monarch, for his 80th birthday later this year. AP

ALGONQUIN COLLEGE

Live, Study and Work in Canada!

Located in Ottawa, Canada's capital, our students not only benefit from a quality education, but also a quality of life second to none.

The top programs are: Animation, Game Development, Interactive Multimedia Developer, Interior Design, Graphics Design, Business Administration, e-Business Supply Chain Management, Computer Engineering Technology, Photonics, Broadcasting TV, Hotel & Restaurant Management and Nursing. Algonquin has been consistently ranked 1st in student satisfaction in Ontario. 90% of Algonquin graduates are employed within 6 months.

Algonquin works with industry and provides opportunities for students to enroll in co-op education programs. These programs enable students to graduate with industry experience and to acquire paid employment opportunities while studying in Canada.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

Nina Luz Deldonio: Tel: (632) 738-1888, nldeldonio@hotmail.com

Evelyn Asensi: Tel: (632) 771-8084, evasensi@yahoo.ca

Think of using your building to generate electricity? We can help you! jon

WorldBriefs

UN accepts Iranian leader's trip to New York

UNITED NATIONS — The UN Security Council on Friday accepted Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's request to defend his country's nuclear program when the 15-nation body votes on arms and financial sanctions against Tehran. The Iranian leader wants to address the council before rejecting the sanctions that it recently ran the resolution but no date has been set for a vote, said South African UN Ambassador Dumisani Kumalo, this month's council president. A draft resolution introduced to the council on Wednesday would ban all Iranian arms exports but not Tehran's and it would freeze assets abroad of 28 individuals, groups and companies. Tehran include the state-owned Bank Sepah and several commanders of Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps. The measure requires Iran to halt uranium enrichment and the processing of nuclear fuel within 60 days after passage or face the possibility of additional sanctions. The United States has to allow a visa for Ahmadinejad. State Department spokesperson Sean McCormack could not say whether a visa would be issued but noted that Washington had "in the past issued visas for him as well as his traveling party when they have gone to the UN." Reuters

White House cites hazy memories in firings

WASHINGTON — The White House is backing away from earlier comments that the eight dismissing federal prosecutors might have originated with top aides to President George W. Bush. A spokesperson also said it had not decided whether to honor subpoenas demanding congressional testimony from Bush aides. At the same time, support the Attorney General Alberto Gonzales over the firings of the eight prosecutors eroded further Friday from within Bush's Republican Party. The House over the firings has added to Bush's problems early in his final two years as a lame-duck president besieged by an assessor war in Iraq, an energized Democratic Party has elected top the most close winning control of both chambers of Congress in elections last November. AP

3 New York cops indicted in 50-shot case

NEW YORK — A grand jury voted Friday to indict three city police detectives in the killing of an unarmed 23-year-old black man who died in a hail of 50 police bullets outside a strip club. Lawyers for the three men had argued their defense lawyers and police union leaders said Friday night. The jury charged two of the detectives — Gescard F. Isnora, an undercover officer who fired the first shot, and Michael Oliver, who fired 31 shots — with manslaughter, two people with direct knowledge of the case said. The third detective, Marc Cooper, who fired four shots, faces a lesser charge of reckless endangerment, those two people said. Isnora and Cooper are black, Oliver is white. They were among five police officers who fired into a gray Nissan Altima carrying Sean Bell, and two friends during a chaotic confrontation in Jamaica, Queens, early on the morning of Nov. 25. Gaffney Bell on his friends, both of whom were wounded, were unarmed, though the police officers apparently believed that they were. The grand jury reached its decision after three days of deliberations and nearly two months of hearing evidence in an emotionally charged case whose clock outlines — two officers firing 50 bullets at three unarmed men who had been out celebrating a friend's bachelor party. The shooting of singer Sean Bell, a 23-year-old Queens fan Gaffney Bell, and widespread consternation in the death of Amadou Diallo, an unarmed African immigrant whose police was killed by 19 of 41 police officers' bullets fired at him in 1999. AFP

UK soldier's death in US attack called unlawful

LONDON — A British soldier who died four years ago after an American pilot fired on a British military convoy in Iraq was killed unlawfully, a coroner ruled Friday. "I find there was no lawful authority to fire on the convoy," said Andrew Walker. The assistant deputy coroner of Oxfordshire. He called the attack on the soldier, 20-year-old Lance Cpl. Matthew Hull, an "assault" and added, "There was no lawful cause for it, and in that respect it was criminal." The death has already been investigated by the US military, which concluded that the shooting was an understandable mistake and that no one need be disciplined. Walker's ruling does not mean anyone will face charges in Hull's death. But it does provide consolation of sorts to a family unable to accept the US military's claim another soldier could be unblamed for the attack and for the Pentagon's failure, at the time of the soldier's family and in Washington to cooperate with the British investigation. AFP

Charging places with visitors, prisoners escape

BAGHDAD, IRAQ — Two members of a British military prisoner convoy carried out an audacious escape plan over the past several days, they overtook two guards with whom, British authorities said on today, the 115 detainee was entering, but no one appeared to have been submitted to him, British authorities said. The prisoner is on the custody in Basra on one of the British bases in the area. The escape came in light on Thursday, when the prisoners appeared that two persons were under no just for sale," said the spokesperson. The military began to investigate and found that two other detainees were also substitutes. The real ones had walked out the door, apparently after swapping clothes with their waiting dupes no. British officials said. AFP

He made it BIG

"Being a technopreneur requires not only technical IT skills, but also business and communication skills. Knowing how to run a business and communicate with clients are also as important as having IT expertise to deliver quality products and services. APC has made me a well-rounded person, allowing me to understand other businesses better and give effective IT solutions to our clients."

John Catayoc
Chief Technology Officer
IDYS, Inc.

John graduated from APC in 2004 with a degree in Computer Science and Information Technology. Now he's the Chief Technology Officer for IDYS, Inc., one of the country's leading ICT solutions providers.

Like John, you'll receive from APC excellent academic preparation and technical expertise in the IT field of your choice. Training in facilities equipped with the latest technology and round with our intensive internship program, you'll be ready to join the mainstream industry even before you graduate.

APC. Your road to success.

Enrollment for SY 2007-2008 starts March 19

asia pacific college

CHED Center of Excellence in IT Education

An educational partnership of Foundation and IBM Philippines

The WORLD

Edna Lorraine B. Bueno

N. Korea: No unfreezing of funds, no nuke shutdown

BEIJING—NORTH KOREA WILL NOT SHUT down its nuclear facilities until the United States releases all funds frozen in a Macau bank, the communist state's chief nuclear negotiator said Saturday.

"If the United States does not remove all of its restrictions on our funds at Banco Delta Asia (BDA), we cannot shut down our nuclear facilities in Yongbyon," Kim Kye-gwan told reporters on arrival in Beijing.

Kim's comments were North Korea's first reaction to the US Treasury's announcement on Wednesday that it had closed the way for the release of about $25 million of North Korean funds frozen in the Macau-based BDA.

In its ruling, the US Treasury barred US banks from dealing with BDA, an institution it said had laundered money for nefarious North Korea.

But the move allowed Macau authorities to decide what to do with the cash after the bank was left in receivership.

Asked if North Korea would stop some of the operations in Yongbyon if only part of the frozen funds were released, Kim said: "Do that (and) operations won't stop at all," reported South Korea's Yonhap news agency.

As to a visit to North Korea by the UN's International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspectors, Kim said: "The entry by IAEA staff will come only after Yongbyon is shut down. There would be no reason for them to come as long as Yongbyon is not shut down," Christopher Hill, chief US envoy to North Korea, said Saturday the IEA issue "will not pose an obstacle to the six-party talks." "I'm quite sure we will not be talking about the BDA issue any more in a couple of days," Hill said.

A pro-Pyongyang newspaper on Friday had hailed US moves to resolve financial sanctions against North Korea as a "landmark event," raising hopes for progress in long-running disarmament talks.

Kim and Hill are in Beijing for Monday's start of the second round of six-party negotiations, which group the two Koreas, China, the United States, Russia and Japan. AFP

Ex-spy slams US officials for blowing her cover

PLAME

WASHINGTON—A GLAMOROUS former CIA spy has accused the Bush administration of maliciously blowing her cover, in an Iraq war political scandal that has rocked White House aides heading for jail.

Valerie Plame, 43, broke her silence over a dinner thrilling Democrat George W. Bush's second term, using a congressional hearing Friday to accuse officials of exposing her to extreme danger and of Bushland's criticism of the drive to war.

"It was a terrible irony that administration officials were the ones who disrupted my cover," said Plame, who portrayed herself to an innocent victim of a political firestorm whipped up over the 2003 invasion.

The blonde former intelligence officer, whose appearance drew a paparazzi-style pack of photographers into the small House of Representatives committee room, also accused Bush aides of tainting the intelligence service.

"I feel passionately as an intelligence professional about the sweeping assistance politicizing of our intelligence process," Plame said.

She told the House Oversight and Governmental Reform Committee that such actions could wreak lasting damage on America's covert intelligence capacity, which plays a key role in the "war on terror." "If our government cannot even protect its identity, future foreign agents who might considering working with the General Intelligence Agency and providing needed intelligence would think twice," Plame was convinced by the details she could give in an open, public hearing as even though she has retired from the CIA, she is still bound by its restrictions on classified information.

As she spoke, a pink-garbed actress professor edged was sanguine range behind her, with a T-shirt reading "Impeach Bush Now." Plame was at the center of the so-called CIA leak case which erupted when her husband, Joseph Wilson wrote a July 2003 opinion piece in the New York Times criticizing Bush's case for war against Iraq.

The controversial White House official then deliberately leaked her name to the media, in retribution, and punish Wilson for his action. AFP

Palestinians to vote in new unity government

GAZA CITY—THE PALESTINIAN parliament was set to vote in a long-awaited unity government Saturday amid hopes it will end a turbulent year of deadly power struggles, international isolation and economic hardship.

Lawmakers were expected to give near-unanimous approval to the Israel-based cabinet, which unites the rival Fatah and Hamas factions, in a joint legislative session due to open at 11 a.m. (0900 GMT).

The vote was to follow a speech by prime minister designate Ismail Haniya in which the Hamas leader was to present the incoming government and its program to MPs. President Mahmoud Abbas was also expected to give a brief address.

Haniya's speech will be closely followed by Israel and the West for clues to the new government's position on issues key to restarting peace talks and restoring much needed Western aid to the cash-strapped Palestinian Authority.

Israel has already denounced the unity government and called on the international community to maintain the boycott it adopted last year after the Islamist of Hamas took power.

The so-called Quartet of major players in the peace process—the European Union, Russia, the United Nations and the United States—has been calling on the new government to renounce violence and recognize Israel and past peace deals for the flow of aid to resume.

The European Union and the United States have both given the unity cabinet a guarded welcome, adopting a wait-and-see approach.

"We will wait until the government is actually in place and we have an understanding of what their platform will be before we make any final judgments about it," US State Department spokesperson Sean McCormack said Thursday.

France and Russia have denounced the embargo from the Quartet demands and indicated a greater willingness to work with the incoming Palestinian government. AFP

Sunday SPORTS

Peñalosa underdog in title fight

GERRY Peñalosa hopes to annex yet another world title when he challenges Mexican Daniel Ponce De Leon (right photo) for the WBO super bantamweight belt.

FORMER WORLD SUPER FLYWEIGHT CHAMpion Gerry Peñalosa takes a final stab at glory when he challenges World Boxing Organization (WBO) super bantamweight king Daniel Ponce De Leon today at the Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada.

The bout is the chief undercard to the big "fearless" card featuring defending champion Marco Antonio Barrera against Juan Manuel Marquez in a showdown for the WBC super featherweight title presented by Oscar De la Hoya's Golden Boy Promotions.

The 28-year-old Ponce De Leon (28-1, 20 KOs), will be defending his WBO crown for the fourth time against Peñalosa, 34, in a classic match-up between youth and experience.

Both Peñalosa (51-3-2, 36 KOs) and Ponce De Leon came in at an even 122 lbs at yesterday's weigh-in held at the Mandalay Bay in Las Vegas.

Boxing experts, however, expect

PEÑALOSA, ICE

Incredible Hall-of-Fame challenge for Gerry

Recah Trinidad

THE CONTEST IS ILOMAL, TO GET the loan.

It's unfair but former world boxing champion Gerry Peñalosa, blessed with near Hall-of-Fame skills, underwhelmed recognition in a brawl that would require the blasting of established fiscal barriers in Iloilo.

The venue is the Mandalay Bay in Las Vegas, not the Coliseum in Iloilo.

That means Peñalosa, 34, will not be pushed and fed to the hungry lions.

But going by normal standards,

COMMENTARY

there was enough reason for the Nevada athletic Commission to discallow Peñalosa's blind challenge for the WBO super bantamweight (122 lbs) crown of Mexican Daniel Ponce de Leon.

On paper, 28, is also younger, bet-

MORABIA & ICE

WINNERS
of a dream car
raffle promo!

METRO MANILA winner
GILBERT VIOLANTE
Valenzuela City

LUZON winner
JACELYN CHAN
Naga City

VISMIN winner
JOSECIELITO VILLACARILLO
Davao City, Cebu

Made to move

MEXICAN gladiators Marco Antonio Barrera (left) and Juan Manuel Marquez are ready to rumble.

BARRERA-MARQUEZ

'Neighbors' paths finally cross

LAS VEGAS—MARCO ANTONIO BARRERA and Juan Manuel Marquez grew up in neighboring towns in Mexico.

Now the 33-year-old world champions are finally going to meet in the ring. Barrera and Marquez will fight Saturday night for Barrera's WBC/IBF/WBO junior lightweight belt.

Barrera (65-4, 42 KOs) weighed in at 59 kilos (130 pounds), and Marquez (46-3 with one draw and 35 KOs) at 58.5 kilos (129 pounds) on Friday. Marquez, who was a champion at 57 kilos (126 pounds), did not need to use the allowance being fighter than Barrera.

"I'm going to be very strong," Marquez said. "I'm very concentrated on this fight and ready to win.

"If Barrera wants to box, I will box him. If Barrera wants to exchange, I will exchange. Whatever he brings to the table, I will do it."

A boisterous crowd chanted Marquez's name as the fighters posed for photographs on a stage at the Mandalay Bay.

"This is great for me," Marquez said through a translator. "I see my people backing me up. I'm ready to go the 12 rounds or whatever."

Barrera had little to say after the weigh-in.

"I'm ready to go," Barrera said through a translator.

In Mexican stars, the two fighters have shown great respect for each other. But earlier this week, Marquez predicted that he would knock Barrera out.

Barrera's reply?

"A lot of people dream of knocking out Barrera," Barrera said. "That's all it is—a dream."

Barrera is winding down a decorated 16-year career, but he clearly isn't counting into retirement.

Pacquiao next

Both fighters hope to parlay a victory into a big money fight with Filipino Manny Pacquiao.

Pacquiao stopped Barrera in 2003. He dismissed Juan Manuel Marquez in 2004 in a down-to-the-wire thriller.

Marquez is also looking to quiet the accidents he took for but been denied.

"This will be the start of getting all the fights I should be getting," Marquez said. AP

No promises, says Pacman

Champ vows to pursue bid for seat in congress

By Manong Carullo

CHARISMATIC PEOPLE'S CHAMPION MANNY Pacquiao left for the United States last night with no promise of an early knockout or a victory but only his best when he slugs it out with Jorge Solis on Apr. 14.

Speaking before a packed conference while endorsing the thirty-for-ng Bayantog Ashon (PBA), Pacquiao didn't give a prediction on the fight's outcome despite being one consistently pursued by newsmen.

"I've never made any promises even in my previous fights except that I'll do everything in my power in trying better to the country," said the 28-year-old Pacquiao in Filipino.

"I'll just do my best."

Pacquiao is slated to fight the Mexican Solis at the Alamodome in San Antonio, Analyzers of the encounter as tougher than Pacquiao's last fight's sterling record. Solis is undefeated in 33 fights and 23 of his victories came via knockout.

"My opponent is also good, it'll be hard to call the fight," he said.

Pacquiao also fielded reports that he has not been in serious training and that he's taking his sure be lightly.

"I've opened for 36 rounds as the and I've been training non-stop for three weeks now," he said.

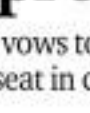
Meanwhile, Pacquiao said that he is still committed to running for a congressional seat in his native Gen. Santos City.

"It is my decision to run and I have to insist because for so long, nothing good has happened in Gen. Santos," he said.

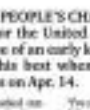
The boxer-lawmaker said he sees no problem in dividing his time between his lucrative profession and politics.

"I see no problem with that, all it takes is discipline," said Pacquiao. "I just have to drop some of my seven assignments and I'll even have time for my family."

During the launch for the party-list, Pacquiao was joined by professional basketball luminaries such as Alvin Patrimonio, Philip Miller, Mark Telan, Terry Saldaña and party-list nominee Jerry Codiñera.



MACQUIAO



CODIÑERA

TALE OF THE TAPE

PONCE DE LEON		PEÑALOSA
26	AGE	34
30-1, 28 KOs	RECORD	50-9-2, 34 KO's
93%	KNOCKOUT PERCENTAGE	66%
Southpaw	STANCE	Southpaw
70"	REACH	65"
5'5	HEIGHT	5'5
Joe Hernandez	TRAINER	Freddie Roach
Chihuahua, Mexico	HOMETOWN	San Carlos City
Power, Youth	PERCEIVED ADVANTAGE	Technical Skills, Experience
Oscar De la Hoya	PROMOTER	Oscar De la Hoya
Joel De la Hoya	MANAGER	Freddie Roach

Peñalosa underdog...

From page A21

Poison De Leon is a climb the ring at around 138 lbs. while Peñalosa is expected to be at around 126 for the showdown.

The match showcases the northern Filipino regional champion against the unconquered, power-punching Mexican.

The bouts will be telecast starting at 9:30 a.m. by ABS-CBN, with a replay at 7 p.m. on Studio 23 and same-day Sept. 24 to 9 p.m. at Studio 23.

Sources in Las Vegas said Ronnie De Leon had been installed a prohibitive favorite to defeat Peñalosa, shoot-outsiding the betting line for the fight had been steadily scrapped with Peñalosa perceived as having no chance of beating the bigger Mexican.

However, a good number of Filipinos boxing experts have not totally counted out an upset win by Peñalosa based on his impressive demolition of Mauricio Martinez last October.

Filipino superstar Manny Pacquiao was scheduled to fly to Los Angeles last night to be at ringside and cheer for his close pal Peñalosa. He is also expected to keep a close watch on the Ronnie Blanco bout, with the winner possibly meeting him in a big money fight next year.

Pacquiao spotted rooms for at the Wild Card Gym in Manila three took the 10:30 p.m. PAL flight to Los Angeles after attending a press conference for a party-list group on a hotel in Manila.

Boxing matchmaker Antonio L. Márquez and Cebu boxing impresario Pete Weaver linked, who had both managed Peñalosa, acknowledged the tough assignment of their former ward, but noted that Peñalosa's superior skills may just carry him to victory.

WBO Asia-Pacific chairman Leon Panoncillo said Peñalosa has a chance if he can withstand Ponce De Leon's punches.

Also appearing in the undercard is Jun Filipino prospect Oscar Dalo "Primo" Gobi, who will be seeing action in an 8-round fight against Mexican national Cisneros.

Gobi is coming off five-round knockout wins against former world champion Mauricio Pastrana and Felipe Sosa.

The fight card also has Genevieve Stephens going up against Rose Ferbes; Jean Alberto Rosas versus Sergio Espinosa; Ashanti Jovitas against Eric Molina; and Anthony Martinez against Jesus Villareal.

Isabera Laguna-Ara, contributor

Incredible challenge for Gerry

From page A21

sally bigger, and definitely stronger.

It's an abnormal pairing, which would've been unsuspected by legendary boxing hordes, namely the WBC, WBA and IBF.

In fact, aside before the formal fight announcement, there had been talks for Peñalosa, a natural super fly, to drop the blind bid for De Leon's crown.

Peñalosa, who had already retired once before, was wooed with absolute concessions that he was being unfair to himself.

Sorry, Peñalosa retorted, but this would be his last shot at redemption.

So what if he's not there alone like an old long-distance runner left to gather the aptitude gold?

Did how to the ring today with his reserve a 0-83 win, Peñalosa has to choose but replace with hands the knives he usually smuggles to to the battle scene.

Of course, for the second time in his career, Peñalosa has looked and sounded terribly hungry, hitching with young fire again.

All told, though, he would have to again surpass himself and break barriers if he's to succeed.

He not only has to be stronger and greater than when he outpolled Ginjoe Antonio in a unanimous decision to capture the WBC super flyweight crown in February 1997.

Peñalosa would have to be dou-ble-up-super-Chinche had ever been.

That didn't seem physically possible anymore.

But in the surreal world of pussyfighting, an incredible aire should instantly crown Peñalosa as the boxing Hall of Fame.

SEABA CHAMPIONS CUP

Former PBA import Nwosu eyed to boost PBL selection

By Jasmine W. Payo

A FORMER PBA HAS-BEEN CENTER WHO ALSO had a stint as an import in the PBA is being eyed to beef up the young selection set that will see action in the Southeast Asian Basketball Association (Seaba) Champions Cup next month in Jakarta.

Julius Nwosu, who suited up for the San Antonio Spurs and Boston Celtics, is expected to join the 12-man roster bolstered by nine-time stars Jason Castro, JC Intal and Marvin Cruz.

PBL selection coach Jaime Honrado noted that the 6-foot-10 center is no stranger to local competition.

"Right now we are negotiating with Nwosu. He badly request formerly of Red Bull. Hopefully we can get him," said Honrado.

Nwosu, a Nigerian professional basketball player, first played in the 90s as reinforcement for Purefoods in 2000.

Two years later, he helped Red Bull to the 2002 Commissioner's Cup title.

"I hope he can be with the team early, he needs to get in shape," said Barangay Ginebra owner Mikee Romero, who's bankrolling the country's first regional side in two years.

The Seaba tournament, which is participated mostly by champion club teams, allows each squad to field in two imports.

Barobo kicked off the preparation by inviting 24 PBL players for a two-day tryout that started last Friday at the RIM gym.

Castro, the Silver Cup Most Valuable Player, Intal and Cruz teamed up to be the best-bets among 35 players who showed up on the first day.

Nwosu, a Nigerian professional basketball player, first played in the 90s as reinforcement for Purefoods in 2000.

Two years later, he helped Red Bull to the 2002 Commissioner's Cup title.

"I hope he can be with the team early, he needs to get in shape," said Barangay Ginebra owner Mikee Romero, who's bankrolling the country's first regional side in two years.

The Seaba tournament, which is participated mostly by champion club teams, allows each squad to field in two imports.

Barobo kicked off the preparation by inviting 24 PBL players for a two-day tryout that started last Friday at the RIM gym.

Castro, the Silver Cup Most Valuable Player, Intal and Cruz teamed up to be the best-bets among 35 players who showed up on the first day.

Soguilon rips Del Prado's 200 mark in US track meet

By Marc Anthony Reyes

RALPH MAGNO SOGUILON HAS TO RACE IN the United States to get into the Philippine record books.

The country's foremost male sprinter, tuning up for the Southeast Asian Games late this year, clocked 22.20 seconds in the 200-meter dash during the first fixture track and field tournament championships recently in the Mt. San Antonio College in California.

While he finished only 7th overall, Soguilon smashed the 22.44 mark set by Individual Prado in 1984.

It was actually the third time Soguilon had ripped the national mark but his two previous efforts both home were nullified by the Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association due to the lack of a wind gauge.

This time, Soguilon's time, recorded on the electronic scoreboard, was confirmed by Prado's best fellow Mariles as the new national record.

"Good news. Officially got the national mark in 2006," said the 23-year-old Soguilon at he happily announced the feat in a text message to his father Wilderio.

Soguilon was in the US with fellow national team member Glenma Aclanso.

De Leon kids are future arnis masters

By Jun Navarro

THE TERRIFIPINT BITCH OF DE LEON, three years to be a rewarding experience she can write home.

Applying the tricks she learned from her father, retired police superintendent Manuel M. De Leon, Ana Melissa, 13, swept all six gold medals in her division during the recently concluded Philippine Olympic Festival in Negros Occidental.

De Leon's younger brother, Chris, 14, also had a big catch of three gold medals, two in forms (unjos) and one in full-contact sparring.

"My sisters talk about how to improve their skills and fighting styles," said Manuel De Leon, a former national athlete in karatedo and arnis, as he showed the limelight with his children. "It has been a constant topic whenever the three of us get together."

After making brush runs in the Central Northern Luzon qualifying of the PCCI, the De Leon sisters got a chance to show their stuff to the national champ-pionships in October.

In the first edition of the PCCI last year, Ana Melissa won three golds and a silver, which she hopes to surpass in the national championships to be held at the Philippine Sports Complex and Malocan shrine.

"The field will surely be very challenging as I have going to expect anything," said De Leon, whose division in the PCCI bodyset Regular City regions the weekend to be in the CSL quality-ing games.

"I'll just train hard, follow the tips of my father and hope that they pay off in the national champ-ionships," she added.

De Leon has much to inhabit to individually with her father and brother. The eldest De Leon said they focus mostly on endurance, mobility and power training while setting aside time for sparring and daytime boxing.

"My kids have the potential. I hope they would make it to the international arena," said Jaclee Manuel, who competed at the 1999 world karatedo championships held in Manila.

Right now, Ana Melissa is already aspiring that she could be taken the handpick, particularly since her role.

ANNA MELISSA: Gold-medal sweep.

Light sentence for Distrito

IF FIRST I THOUGHT THE NEWS ABOUT Rudy Distrito sounded halfway around the world. Los Vegas the starting point, going to Cannon City where the former singer's family resided all the way to Alaska where Boss and Rose Salazar now live.

IN HUDDLE

Beth Gale

However, a second look at Elmer Distrito's ten message clarified some details.

According to Elmer, Boss Salazar had called from Las Vegas at 3 a.m. yesterday to announce the parole's most imposed by the judge on Rudy, who was being tried for murder.

"Rudy has been sentenced to a term of six years imprisonment," Elmer texted, which could be considered good news, because he could've gotten life sentence.

* * *

Later that morning, I had a chance to talk with colleague Bonnie Stoltenmeier on radio and he sounded no time relaying the information I had just gotten from Elmer.

"Before anything else, I'd like to announce that the Distrito trial is over. The judge sentenced him from 6 to 12 years. He will be eligible for parole in two years," announced Bonnie, who was happy with the decision because he believes Distrito will be deported to the Philippines once before his eligibility for parole comes around.

"That's exactly what everyone wants to happen and I think it will because Rudy is not an American citizen," she said.

* * *

Bonnie added that his report on the length of the sentence is the correct one and not the one which came from Reno because it came from Rudy's wife, Jocelyn, and his lawyer whom he had talked with at Las Vegas at dawn.

The attorneys seemed to be very pleased that one of the landmark, which Bonnie feels is unnecessary to completing political worlds.

Rudy played for Cardoz under coach Sonny Jaworski and for Jaggers's team to the semi-finalist title, but lose Knights.

* * *

His fate is about to become very rich, and of course the ballclubs are all excited over the prospect.

Me, the ratsiblall is not expected to come from gate receipts, or television revenue, or from sponsorships of any kind.

The enormous income can investment will be derived from a tie up with the Pagcor on game-betting which will be launched soon.

One PBA governor said they expect to generate an annual P200 million revenue from Pagcor while another board member projects between P60 to P100 million.

I believe the income will be divided among the clubs to augment their expenses in maintaining their teams.

* * *

For years, the Pagcor had knocked on the PBA door for a tie up but the government agency was turned down time and again during the reign of Commissioner Jun Bernardino. Without the participation or blessing of the PBA, however, Pagcor went through with its plan of online ending betting.

This time, when the Pagcor knocked again, the PBA decided to be an active participant and benefitary.

* * *

HIGHWIRE: Don't expect too many out-of-town games this conference. Provincial promoters are just not too hot on traveling to the games considering that the teams have been depleted of superstars whom the fans want to see play. Even what I heard, even the game of the Warriors Crusher have been cancelled. ... Reapdom's youngest godfather Mike Romero has secured the bookings of BAP-SBP president Manny V. Pangilinan for the right to represent the country in the Noble Champions Cup qualifier in Jakarta, Indonesia, and the Southeast Asian Games in Bangkok, Thailand.

By Manny R. Castillo

RENO DISTRICT, WHO SHONE AS A tough, aggressive player in the Philippine Basketball Association, has been sentenced to a prison term of 4 to 12 years in a Northern Nevada jail for manslaughter resulting from a stabbing incident in November 2000.

Based on information gathered by the inquirer, judge David Hall found the 49-year-old Distrito guilty of killing Modesto Juan Amaya following a confrontation over alleged Amaya's romantic involvement with Distrito's wife Jocelyn.

Distrito, 49, a former Ginebra and Alaska player in the 1980s, was arrested in November 2000 after he allegedly stabbed Amaya, 39, to death in front of his home in Carson City, Nevada.

Distrito's wife, Jocelyn, was also arrested in connection with the killing of Amaya, whose body was found in the trunk of a car in Reno.

Distrito's lawyer, Robert Archibald, argued that Distrito acted in self-defense when he stabbed Amaya, who was allegedly carrying a knife at the time of the incident.

Archibald said Distrito was provoked by Amaya's insulting remarks about Jocelyn.

Archibald said Distrito was provoked by Amaya's insulting remarks about Jocelyn.

Distrito's lawyer, Robert Archibald, argued that Distrito acted in self-defense when he stabbed Amaya, who was allegedly carrying a knife at the time of the incident

Editor Teddyboy S. Malasmitas

Lakers' 7-game fall ends with Kobe's 65

LOS ANGELES—LOS ANGELES SUPERSTAR Kobe Bryant poured in 65 points on Friday as the Lakers ended a seven-game National Basketball Association skid with a 130-111 overtime victory over Portland.

Bryant shot 22-of-39, including 4-of-11 from 3-point range, to post his second-highest career total. Bryant's career best was his 81 points set against Toronto late season...second high...in NBA history.

His performance on Friday surpassed his 62-point effort of December 20, 2005 against Dallas, for No. 2 on his personal ledger chart. Bryant now has 21 games with 50 or more points, four of them coming this season.

"I felt pretty good, I just wanted to keep on attacking," Bryant said.

More important than the personal points total, Bryant said, was ending the seven-game slide.

It was the longest losing streak of Lakers coach Phil Jackson's illustrious 17-year coaching career.

"Oh, man, I finally get a chance to sleep at night," Bryant said of ending the slide.

Bryant broke a 106-106 tie sometime with an incredible fadeaway 3-pointer with two Portland defenders in his face from the right corner and Minutes later added two free throws for a five-point lead with 28 seconds remaining.

In regulation, Bryant connected on three straight 3-pointers, including the game-tying shot from the left with 17 seconds left to make it 99-99.

The Trail Blazers had a chance to win it, but Zach Randolph muffed on a 27-foot as the buzzer sounded.

Jackson admitted the team felt the "desperation" of ending the losing streak. He said Bryant's impact began before the game even started.

"Before the tip-off Kobe went around and got in all three guys' ears and talked about getting it with some intensity and loving," Jackson said.

AFP

COMPLETE NBA RESULTS (Thursday): Atl. 108, Memphis 114; Seattle 98, Orlando 102; Charlotte 83, Miami 102; Sacramento 97, New Orleans 87; New York 102, Golden State 101; Detroit 110, Phoenix 91; Toronto 104, Minnesota 88.

KOBE Bryant will finally be able to sleep well at night with the Lakers' seven-game slide over. | AP

Pagunsan still in top 20 after 3rd-rd 69

DAVAO, CEBU—TEE CHAPCHAI SIRAT suffered a late wobble with three bogeys over the last five holes, but he still will take a five-shot lead into the final day of the PCL Classic after shooting a third-round 68 on Saturday.

The 35-year-old Filipino with charges of illegal entry spent a lot of time in the rough and until late after a course-record 11-under 61 and a 64 on its first two rounds, he still had plenty of breathing room with a 21-under 195 total.

A chip-in for an eagle at the 16th helped Sirat himself to a 69 for a share of second with Japan's Taichi Teshima, who shot a fleurless 66 to join the fifteen on 16-under 200 for the tournament and home first event.

Argentine European Tour rookie Rafael Echenique's 66 left him alone in fourth at 201, a shot ahead of Taiwan's experienced Lu Wen-teh, who also shot four under.

Jeric Pagunsan, the 2006 rookie of the Year from the Philippines, shot a 69 after successive 68s to stay in a six-way tie for 16th place at 206.

Pagunsan had an eagle, two birdies and a bogey for a 30 on the front nine but would only get the end of the way for his three-under card for the day.

Anyone hoping for Chapchai to blow up over the weekend were left waiting as he continued to pick up birdies over the front nine. Reuters

Winthrop, UNLV advance

SPOKANE, WASHINGTON—NEW ZEALAND senior Craig Bradshaw scored 24 points and Terrell Martin added 20 and a career high 15 rebounds as Winthrop University beat the Notre Dame 74-66 Friday in the first round of the 68-college basketball championship tournament.

Winthrop, which had been 0-6 in previous tournament appearances, blew all of its 20-point lead in the second half before surging in the final 2 minutes to end Notre Dame's first NCAA appearance since 2003.

Aaron Brooks scored 18 points and the third-seeded Oregon Ducks topped Miami (Ohio), 69-54, and moved into the second round for the first time since 2002.

The pesky Redhawks (10-12) had a chance to tie it late, but Michael Roxion' following 3-point attempt bounced off the front of the rim.

In Chicago, Michael Imoh and Wendell White had 16 points apiece and UNLV won an NCAA tournament game for the first time in 15 years by edging Georgia Tech, 67-61.

The last time the Runnin' Rebels won was under Jerry Tarkanian, who led them to the 1991 Final Four. Now under coach Lon Kruger, UNLV (23-14) won its eighth in a row.

In Chicago, Wisconsin overcame an 11-point deficit to advance past the 11th-seeded Texas A&M Corpus Christi Islanders, 74-62.

Kammron Taylor, sensation at the break, finished with 24 points for the Badgers (30-5). Wisconsin also clamped down on defense as the Islanders, who began playing basketball in the 1999-2000 season. AP

FERRARI'S Kimi Raikkonen (center) flies Sauber's Nick Heidfeld (L) and Robert Kubica past a curb during the qualifying session. | AFP

Kimi takes Aussie GP pole

MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA—KIMI RAIKKONEN took pole position Saturday for Ferrari's season-opening Australian Grand Prix, while Formula One champion Fernando Alonso starts his title defense beside him at the front of the grid.

It was Raikkonen's 13th career pole, but his first in a Ferrari. Formerly of McLaren, the Finn joined Ferrari to replace seven-time world champion Michael Schumacher, who retired after finishing second on the season-opening last year.

Raikkonen completed the 1.366-kilometer (1.295-mile) Albert Park circuit with a time of 1 minute, 26.472 seconds.

His last pole position was at the Italian GP in September, but he now strikes in 2006 after winning seven races in 2005 for McLaren.

Now he will have a McLaren as a rival beside him at the front row.

Alonso, sporting the No. 1 on his car once again, but with his new McLaren race car, was second with 1:26.691.

Raikkonen thinks his car can do better over the 58 laps on Sunday's race.

"It all goes the way it should then we have a good chance, but it will be important to pick up as many points as possible," Raikkonen said.

"I think our car is more competitive in race trim than a single lap," he added. "We are more confident for the race than for qualifying."

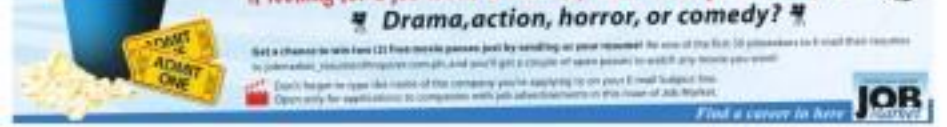
Ferrari's teammate Felipe Massa did not fare so well and will start from 16th on the grid after a faulty gearbox prevented him from completing the second qualifying session.

"We found a good setup for the car, but it wasn't a good result for the team," said Raikkonen.

Alonso won last year's race here in a Renault when Michael Schumacher's Ferrari blew a tire on the last lap.

"There is still a slight gap to Ferrari, but the improvements that have been made since the Sakhir test are fantastic," said Alonso, who is eager for the race.

"I'm sure it will be very interesting. We have very competitive all weekend," Alonso said. He led the first practice session on Friday. AP



Sunday BIZ

Business/Features Editor Margie Quiroga-Espino

Cebu's *fashion accessory makers* fight slowdown

Companies want to ensure jobs of 250,000

By Irene R. Cruz
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—Most fashion accessories exporters in Cebu have one thing in common—they possess the gung-ho attitude that has enabled Cebu entrepreneurs to weather economic storms. The fashion accessory industry started in the 1960s in Cebu, then abundant in seashells, according to a study funded by the Canadian International Development Research Agency (Cida) PearlE project.

In the mid-'90s, "puka" shells became a hit in the global market, encouraging the emergence of small companies taking advantage of the huge demand. The industry now uses a variety of raw materials such as wood, bone, coconut shell and fibers like abaca, raffia, *buri* and pandan. The products also expanded from producing only necklaces and bracelets to include bags, hair accessories, earrings, rings and brooches.

Indeed, the industry has come a long way as the Cebu-based exporters now supply the fashion accessory requirements of major department stores such as Marks and Spencer, Bhs.page, Debenhams, Target, Hutchisons, Top Shop and JC Penney, among others. It also enjoyed record sales in 2005, with exports reaching $65 million.

But sales this year have gone down as the fashion accessory industry faces stiff competition from China and a slowdown in some of their markets. A few had stopped operations while most are on a slow down mode, observers in country leaders still see opportunities for growth.

"We view these concerns as challenges. I am excited over the development," says Ma. Theresa M. Soberano, president of Cebu Fashion Accessories Manufacturers and Exporters Association (Cebu).

Cebu Base vice president **CONTINUED**

HARAJUKU Princess
Japanese-inspired necklace made with resin, crocheted suede, Swarovski crystals and the engage bulb.

PHOTO BY VICENTE Paterno Jr., chairman of Philippine Seven Corp.

CEOs behind the lens

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO LEARN and novelist a new skill. Just take a look at 92-year-old Antonio Limcaoco and Philippine Seven Corp. chair Vicente Paterno.

Both are fully handsfree that he has taken up photography and the hobby has opened up a whole new world for him.

"Photography has widened my perspective. It helps me to discover the beauty in people, places and things that I did not notice before," Limcaoco says.

He says he likes taking photographs of nature and all its glory and he honors his craft through practice and by getting advice from the members of the Camera Club of the Philippines.

Limcaoco is the oldest applicant for membership to the CCP, the country's oldest photography club, and he is having a ball.

The applicants are supposed to take care of the logistics during meetings of the club setup in 1928, such as the setup of tables, chairs, the projector and the display of the photographs.

Limcaoco says it's a good thing that he's over 89 years old.

"Because I'm old, I get the concession," Limcaoco says with a smile.

Not that Limcaoco is complaining.

As he says, photography gives him a sense of accomplishment quite different from what he gets in the corporate and government worlds.

It's a feeling shared by the other top executives of some of the country's largest corporations who are also active members of the CCP.

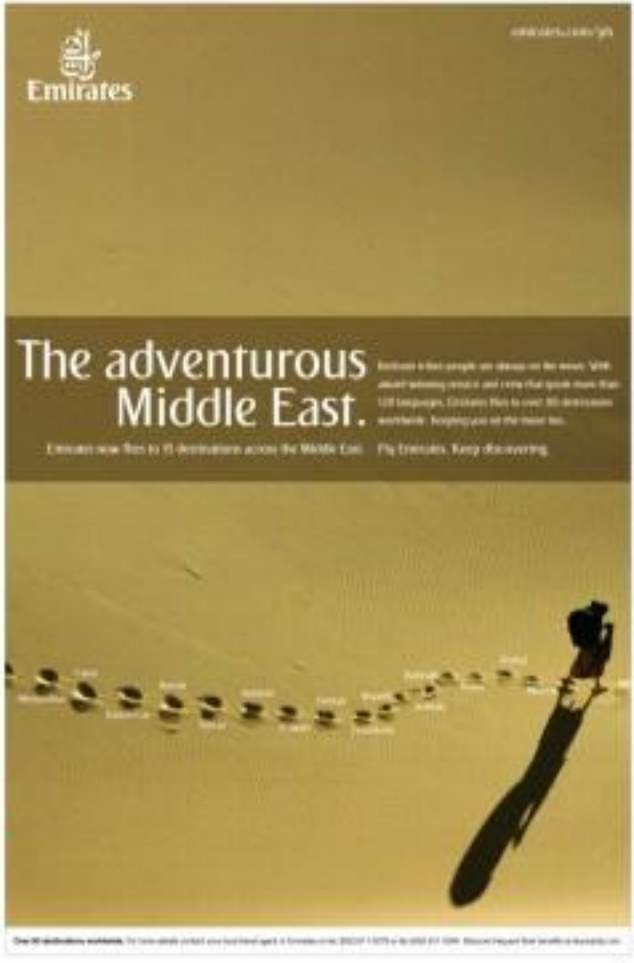
Rose Sip, CEO of Shantex Philippines Inc., says photography allows her to bring out her artistic side.

"I've been the family photographer ever since, but I just took up my first formal class about 10 years ago," Sip says, "now that I'm with the CCP, I am shooting a lot more and I learn from the members."

She says she enjoys photography because through it, she is able to capture a feeling, an essence for posterity, be it an expression on a person's face, or how patterns form in nature.

CONTINUED

BY ROSE Sip, president/CEO of Rosecorp Phils.



The latest Buzz in Business : The "BOSS" partners with the "BIZ"

Cebu's fashion accessory makers...

Front page B1

ISABELA Text 09195825178

NUEVA ECIJA Text 09156802733

CAGAYAN Text 09195825178

TARLAC Text 09163686112

METRO MANILA

LUZON

VISAYAS

For more details, call The Property Forum Phils., Monday to Sunday, 7:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M. • Tel nos.: (02)554-3838 & (02)554-8894 • Cell/globe no.: 0928-3171111

ISABELA Non Modern European sculpture made with hand-manipulated lace chain around Swarovski crystals.

for external affairs (of Eden C. Camargo also takes the difficulties in stride. "What doesn't kill you only makes you stronger," Camargo says. But he urged companies to find ways to cut down costs to remain competitive.

Production inputs

Industry also recognizes the need for action on the constraints hearing the industry while the peso has strengthened, the price of the imported components the industry uses remains high, the says.

Cebu Home past president Janet Chua says local suppliers still sell the imported components at the same price although the peso has strengthened and the cost of the raw material for these components have gone down.

Chua, who owns Cyprea International Inc., suggests that the industry source the raw material requirements somewhere else to get a more reasonable price.

It's not hopeless though for the country's fashion accessory industry. While China emerged as a preferred fashion accessory supplier, Camargo says this is a boon to advantage as for as is low cost is concerned.

"The cost of labor in the Philippines is not much higher than that of China, where labor has gone up by as much as 60 percent and is projected to increase further," he adds.

If the industry could improve the supply chain and bring down the cost of components, it could compete with China, says Camargo.

He suggests that the industry should work in attracting the suppliers to set up their manufacturing facility here to bring down the cost.

High price

In the meantime, the price remains a major constraint for the industry. Research results that one prospective buyer asked her company to develop and design a product sample but they did not receive any order for the product. Instead, the saw the product displayed in a trade show which she believed was produced in China, a product that costs $1.50 in China would cost at the minimum $3 in the Philippines, Camargo says.

"What we make here, China could make a cheaper. If we could give the buyers what they need at the right price, then they would not go to China," Indonesian says. She says most buyers prefer that the minimum quantity be priced at a minimum of $3.

Camargo is approaching the problem of price by coming up with two types of products to serve the high-end market and mid-market. While his family's company Avana Accessories Inc. had been serving the high-end market over the years, Camargo decided to come up with products that can target the mid-market. "About 30 percent of total sales now comes from the low-end market," he points out.

Camargo, who has been gaining recognition as international designer for his designs, also plans to develop the company brand for their high-end products.

But Chua says not all fashion accessory manufacturers could brand their products like Avana since their products could be copied easily by China. She cites as an example a seed available locally and used as a component in locally made accessories that smuggle the market's fancy that China came up with their own version—one made of plastic at least cost.

Optimism

Industry still expressed optimism over the industry's prospects. She says the country still has comparative advantage in terms of design, the use of indigenous materials and creativity with the buyers. "We are still ahead in terms of design," she says.

Cebu Home executive director Bonnie Avanceña said the country is known for its strong creative line, which is made from natural materials such as wood, coconut and seashell. At the same time, we have the creativity, which is unique to the Filipinos. Even if China is a major player, we still have the window of opportunity because the fashion industry trends changes every six months," Avanceña says.

The Cebu Pacific team of the recent report also noted the need to emphasize the different areas in the value chain, such as component sourcing, operations, marketing and sales, outbound logistics and customer care.

The report recommended the establishment of a formal structure at the front end of the supply chain covering the gathering of indigenous raw materials and the sourcing agents.

It also requested that firms could consolidate their requirements for imported raw materials to get a better price.

Aside from training for the industry workers and sub-contractors, the report also noted the need for the industry players to remain in presence in international trade fairs and to use innovative marketing tools.

Trade fairs

To keep up with the competitors, fashion accessory exporters have to continue participating in trade fairs, noted Avanceña, whose company ABS Export International Inc. joins an average of 12 trade fairs every year. The other major companies join about seven trade fairs annually.

Camargo, however, noted that companies have to spend between P500,000 and P1 million to join international trade fairs. Since the bulk of the fashion accessory exporters belong to the small enterprises, most of them could not afford to join trade fairs.

Unfortunately, the Philippine government has not been able to help in this area. Instead, the industry gets its trade participation subsidies from international agencies such as the Cida/Pesd2.

Avanceña says the Pesd2 has provided assistance by not only in trade fair participation but also in such activities conducive to entrepreneurial development in production processes and information on emerging fashion trends. "The companies have to know the future trends to be able to be successful in the market needs," she says.

Social responsibility

What keeps the Cebu-based companies going is the thought that the survival of several thousands would lose their means of livelihood. The industry employs 250,000 direct and indirect workers, aside from supporting downstream industries. "We have the social responsibility of providing the means of living to our workers," says Salvosa says.

Camargo agrees. "My team always tells me to take care of myself because many depend on the company for livelihood," he says.

Camargo, who serves as Avana's managing director and in-house designer, has brought honors to the company and to the country.

Avana is the first and only Asian firm to receive three, in 2004, 2005 and 2006, the Rookie de Mode Award at the Bijoutex Fashion Accessories Show in Barcelona. Avana's excellent designs and innovative use of materials have continued to impress the Ibiza jury.

While he complains about the problems the industry faces, he refuses to give up. Instead, he considers the softening of the global market as a time for regrouping. Such, taking stock of the business and determining future directions.

Charisma of the cause

IN THE MOST RECENT VOLUME OF Leader to Leader, Jerry Porras, Stewart Emery, and Mark Thompson, authors of "Success Built to Last," attribute a leader's sustained success to the strength of the cause they pursue: "Enduringly successful people serve the cause...and they are lifted up by its power."

Great leaders have a burning passion to make a difference which fuels him or her.

Self-centered leadership is inherently limited. As Porras, Emery and Thompson assert, wealth neither lasts nor satisfies. Power and fame are fleeting and fade quickly. Causes endure, causes fulfill, causes make a difference.

A leader's personal charisma is elevated by the charisma of the cause.

Perhaps no leader demonstrates this concept more clearly than Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. A gifted speaker and charismatic leader, King burned with the flame of justice. His personal appeal was substantial, but it was trumped by the necessity of his dream.

"I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: 'We hold these truths to be self-evident that all men are created equal.'

"I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood.

"I have a dream that one day even the state of Mississippi, a state sweltering with the heat of injustice, sweltering with the heat of oppression, will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice.

"I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.

"I have a dream today."

– Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Martin Luther King, Jr. articulated the dream, but it was not his alone. The dream was bubbling in the hearts of women in the back of buses, children forbidden to drink from the same fountain as their friends, and businessmen unable to get a hot shot at success due to the color of their skin.

The dream had simmered for years in the African-American community long before King elected to speak it boldly and profanely to prominently.

The dream beckoned civil rights activists from the four corners of America and aroused the globe to demonstrate for freedom in the Deep South. The dream mobilized marches and swayed congressmen. The dream inspired poets, and lifted up the heads of the oppressed. The dream gave a voice to those suffering in silence and spawned a movement for civil rights.

The dream supplied freedom marchers with resolve in the wake of threats and abuse. The dream gave backbones to students confronting the barrier of segregation. The dream fueled strength in Martin Luther King Jr. through endless days, sleepless nights, and countless challenges the ugliest and most flagrant forms of racism in the United States.

Martin Luther King Jr. always placed more faith in the power of the dream than in his personal charisma. Perhaps that's why he was able to speak so candidly about the dream on the eve of his death, "It really doesn't matter with me now, because I have been to the mountaintop."

Although the severity of his life was uncertain, the fate of the dream was sure. The dream had gathered into a monster wave moving the nation toward justice and equality, and no racist government or white supremacy group could stem its tide. The dream was destined to change the country and bestow rights, long withheld, upon African-Americans.

MLK had seen the dream, and to that his life was devoted. Power, prestige, or awards mattered little. King lived his life for the dream, and watching it unfold was the greatest reward he could have gained.

To further explore the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., go to http://nonviolence.stanford.edu/mlk/king/. To read the full text of "The Cause Has Charisma" by Jerry Porras, Stewart Emery, and Mark Thompson, visit the Leader to Leader Institute online at: http://www.leadertoleader.org/.

For information on John Maxwell's in-house or public leadership or customized workshops, please e-mail us at dorg@inquirer.ph or call 403-2000-2732 and ask for Joel or Bing. Text MAXWELL ON to 0922 (Smart) to get daily SMS leadership insights from John Maxwell. God bless!

A LEADER'S WAY

John C. Maxwell

CEOs behind the lens

PHOTO BY LEO Bingen, president/CEO of Informatics, and president of the Gamer's Club of the Philippines

From page B1

"When I look at everything around me, I see beautiful subjects that will let them for just an instant, so I want to capture it," she says.

Sky is a probationary member, just like Pamela, but she hopes to pass in a month and become a full-fledged member of the CCP.

Leo Bingen, president and CEO of Informatics Holdings Philippines Inc., and this year's president of the CCP, says he actually spent less photography years before he started his climb up the corporate ladder.

"I was already earning money as a wedding photographer. I have [taken pictures for more 200 weddings," Bingen says.

That love for photography never left him even as he went to work for multinational companies and then set up his own company.

This is why he does not mind taking care of the many activities of the CCP which takes up a considerable chunk of his time and effort.

He says that as president, he wants to open up the CCP to more people who share a love for photography.

"What we offer is camaraderie and sharing of tips and experiences in photography," Bingen says, "members are very free willing to share their knowledge because we all love photography."

5.5% Guaranteed Tax-free Fixed Monthly Income

- Affordable at a minimum of PHP 50,000
- Secured, 5-year placement, tax-free
- Accessible monthly income

Get it now at any PSBank branch.

PSBank PRIME TIME DEPOSIT

The BASICS of BUSINESS COMMUNICATION

PLDT simplifies business communications, get Bizcentral and BizDSL package. Enjoy the best ways of connecting and being in control of your communications.

This great deal makes you do more and get more for less!

Now bundled with

BizDSL

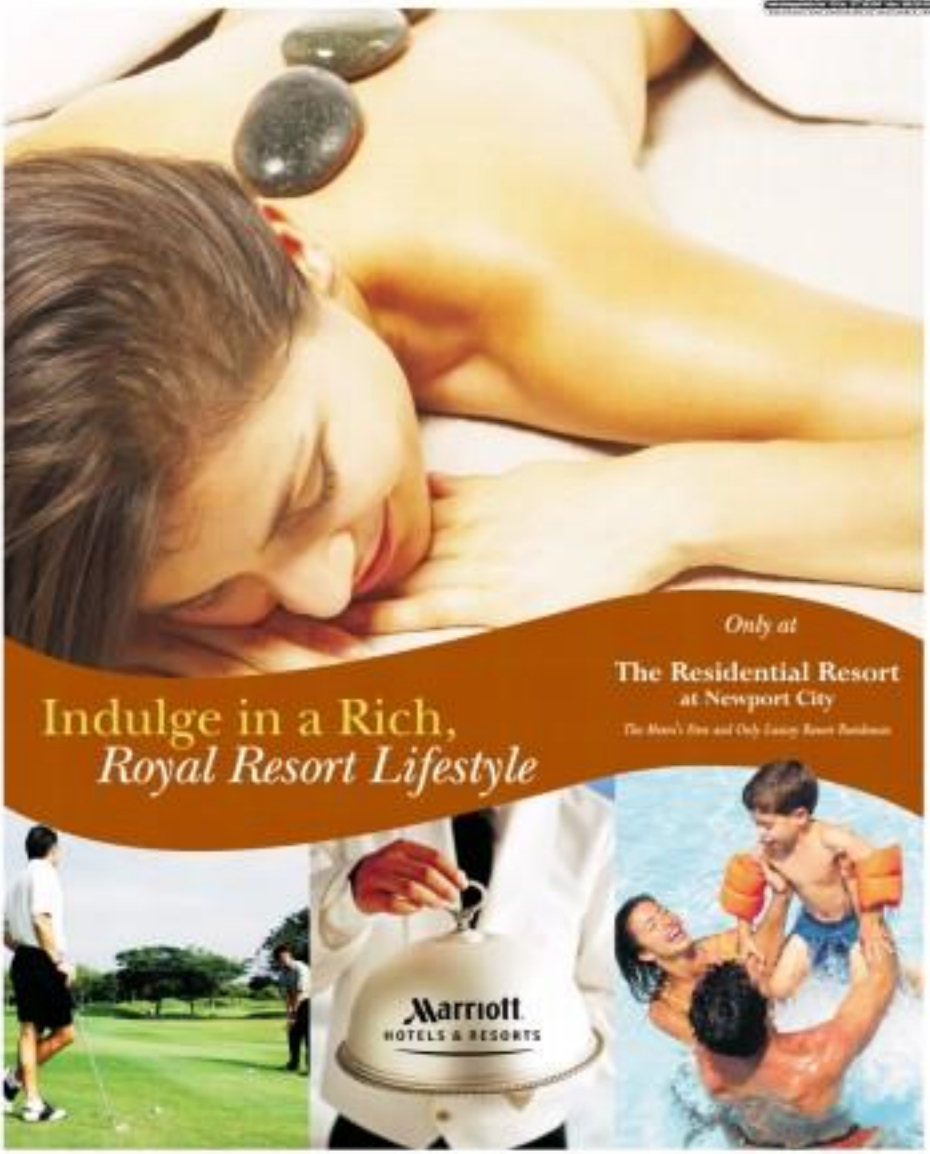
PLDT BUSINESS SOLUTIONS

T 177 or 1-800-100-BizSol (249765)

E bizsol@pldt.com.ph W www.pldt.com.ph

PLDT BOSSCENTRAL

The boss holds the key.



Only at

The Residential Resort
at Newport City

The Metro's First and Only Luxury Resort Residences

Indulge in a Rich, *Royal Resort Lifestyle*

Indulge grandly. Unblush. At The Residential Resort at Newport City. Where pampering of the richest kind happens every day.

Lounge in elegant villa-style executive studios to two-bedroom suites. With rustic wooden and balconies that lend views of green, picturesque settings. Explore a myriad of rejuvenating amenities. From lush gardens and an artistic Tri-charming play areas and private grounds. To pristine pools and a reflexology path. Or keep healthy at the badminton courts, jogging paths, fitness stations or putting greens.

What's more, its next door to landmarks that complete your resort lifestyle. Villanova's championship-level golf course. A vibrant commercial center burgeoning with leisure options. And the five-star Marriott Hotel. Where plush rooms, a full service spa and a mouthwatering restaurant come together for your comfort.

Immerse yourself in royal pleasure. Right in the city. At the metro's first and only luxury resort residences.

OWN A RESIDENTIAL UNIT
FOR AS LOW AS
$300 A MONTH

For a taste of the unique resort experience,
visit us today at the Newport City Grand Showroom.

Newport City Information Center, Newport City, Pasay City, Metro Manila, Philippines

(632) 855-7580 • 855-7583 • 855-7594 • 855-7586

www.newportcity.com.ph

Megaworld Newport
Property Holdings, Inc.

In this issue, we present Part Two of Inquirer Lifestyle's *review of the fitting rooms in the more popular fashion shops* **(see below)** *and department stores* **(see F)**.

Sunday LIFESTYLE

Editor Chela Bautista-Formoso

CRITERIA USED

Size of fitting room; cleanliness; basic amenities (hooks, shelves, seats, stools); mirror and lighting; number of fitting rooms; and service. Each shop was rated for each category on a scale of 1–5, 1 being the poorest and 5, the most outstanding.

BENCH lives up to its name by providing a comfy seat inside this fitting room.

NO. They're not seeing red in Dorothy Perkins because of the red curtains, but neither do they see you.

GOOD basics at Topshop. Good service, too.

Robinsons Galleria

Between a ghost and a rock star

Text and photos by Pam Pastor

Bayo

I walked into Bayo and thought I had walked into our spare room at home. Someone was moving clothes on an old rowing board by the fitting room and there was an electric fan in one corner. Inside the fitting room was an old dirty-looking plastic chair that I don't think anyone would want to use. No one offered help either. Overall, at least they have a lock on the door.

Bench

Aside from books, Bench's fitting room had a bench (duh!)—soft, but with a backrest, since like a comfy seat. The place was a bit cramped, but still manageable. You can put a shirt on without knocking your elbows against the walls. The mirror was placed against the wall at a slight angle, which makes me wonder what kind of magic that creator whom you look at your reflection.

Dorothy Perkins

I must have turned into a ghost when I walked in to Dorothy Perkins because I was pretty much ignored by the staff with the exception of one girl by the fitting room who smiled at me. There are three dressing rooms, each one covered with a thick fuchsia curtain. The Last Chance To Buy rack is above the fitting room area. Interesting, brass and bronze of mythical cities in this area. Walking the place took like a shadow-run. I tried on a dress, returned it myself and walked out of the place without anyone saying a word to me.

Ensembles

Three fitting rooms, red curtains, three hooks. Nothing spectacular but the service was good. Bonus points because the salesgirl before was by the fitting room.

Folded & Hung

Fitting rooms have heavy doors that I found hard to open. Because they are heavy, the doors are almost always closed. And because no one offered any help, another shopper and I stood outside one of the fitting rooms for a long time, not realizing it was empty.

Freeway

Everything was white and clean. The hooks and metal bar seemed extra-sturdy. And the service was great. The salesgirl offered help without me having to ask.

Kamiseta

Fitting rooms were spacious, with decent curtains ensuring your privacy. But there was zero service. I was obviously trying to look for bigger different

BARS in Dorothy Perkins come in handy when you're trying on an armful of clothes.

CHARGE, anyone? No electrical outlet in the Marks & Spencer's fitting room.

THE RED seat inside Levi's fitting room is a safe mark, too.

Selected shops—Robinsons Galleria

	Bayo	Bench	Dorothy Perkins	Ensembles	Folded & Hung	Freeway	Kamiseta	Levi's	Marks & Spencer	Topshop
Size	★★	★★	★★★	★★★	★★★	★★★	★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★
Cleanliness—absence of cobwebs, etc.	★★	★★★★	★★★	★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★
Basic amenities—hooks, shelf, locks	★★	★★★★	★★★	★★★	★★★	★★★★	★★★	★★★★	★★★	★★★
Mirror and lighting	★★★	★★★	★★★★	★★★	★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★
Quantity	★★★	★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★	★★★	★★★
Service	★	★★	★★	★★★★	★	★★★★	★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★

Robinsons Supermarket

Go for good taste.

Take the first bite at healthy living at Robinsons Supermarket!

Eat Well Spend Less

STUCK ON YOU: Bubble gum on the wall of People'R People's fitting room...

...and a busted light switch.

PEEKABOO: A portal for voles in Boys'

DEMON: Sturdy shelf for bags and stuff

GASHECK: Important wooden shelf with chipped edge needs replacement.

HAMES & Spencer feeling fitting-room

Gateway Mall

Pleasant surprises and sordid shocks

Text and photos by Vangie Bags-Reyes

Baya

One of the two fitting rooms has two gaping holes, one located behind the door (hammered by lovers and bags?), and another one below the mirror (who said peekaboo is good for you). Need we say more?

Bench

The four fitting rooms are very tidy, no clothes or bags to trip on there. There's even an ottoman supplied by the store for you to inside the room, but there's only one bench and a little chunky and a paint job would help.

Folded & Hung

The staff is friendly, helpful and knowledgeable. But the two changing rooms have poor lighting, broken hooks and dubious mirrors.

Kashieza

Changing rooms are airy and spacious, but rather shabby. The wooden doors badly need repair or repaint. Contains also loses greater points.

Kashieza

Salespersons are well-trained and friendly. In fact, there's a smile ratio inside the fitting rooms reminding you that they're happy to assist you and that you don't need to leave the room to see you need anything. The wooden chair standard in your bag, however, has cracks on the edges and needs replacement.

Mango

The shop definitely knows how to make their goods are. They have nice fitting rooms with complete mirrors and good lighting. Salespersons readily assist customers in the rooms, while keeping track of the merchandise. But floor rugs need some vacuuming.

Marks & Spencer

Another chaotic and helpful set of instructions. We can see how they maintain the shop by straightening and promptly returning items to their appropriate places. Lots of the fitting rooms includes a three-sided mirror, two metal hooks, bright light and a fine sprinkler. 2 maximum of six garments is allowed. Cool!

Massimo

Overhead ventilation. One of the four fitting rooms is used to store goods; big bundles of clothes block the way to the room, not to mention the electric shocker, one bolt is busted, and the lights are not good enough to see if the color fits well.

People R People

"Showroom-conducive" best describes how this store runs its fitting rooms. Each room has a mini white board outside the door and the vigilant salesclerk writes down the number of clothes you bring in as well as the number of persons who go in. You should have more okay, but she failed to inspect the rooms for a busted light switch and chewing gum stuck on the wall.

Selected shops-Gateway Mall

	Baya	Bench	Folded & Hung	Cashieza	Kashieza	Mango	Marks & Spencer	Massimo	People R People
Size	—	—	**	***	—	****	****	**	***
Cleanliness: absence of cloths, etc.	—	—	***	*	—	***	****	**	*
Basic amenities: hooks, shelf, locks	—	—	**	***	—	**	***	**	**
Mirror and lighting	***	—	**	***	—	***	****	**	**
Quantity	—	—	**	***	—	***	****	***	***
Service	—	—	***	**	—	****	***	***	***

Market! Market!

Market-size rooms

Text and photos by Fran Katigbak

ABUNDANCE of cubicles at SuperBench

PETIT Monde needs to get more on dramatic lighting

WATCH out for dirty floors at Jag

Baya

Minimal but sturdy-looking arrangement, ample lighting and full-size wall mirror brighten the tidy nook and give the illusion of space. Double doors, unfortunately, hateful cubicle-like. The branch knows the right tricks to maximize small spaces. Other Baya shops should take heed.

Folded & Hung

No wonder if someone tried to steal the light bulbs from F&H's fitting rooms. for these fixtures to be considered up, up, up in the very highest ceiling. You'd need to imagine somersaulting ladder to replace them. All the light (or what's left of it) could do was cast shadows on every inch of our embarrassing flesh.

Freeway

Pity the artlessly challenged person who attempts to use Freeway cubicles. She (okay, her less-moral sister) will have to reach the bolt perched on the upper corner of the door. Assuming there is a lock, of course — one of three rooms had

PENGUPPIE'S shoebox chic

Lights outside a shattered wall, an obstructed mirror, no room. Cramped stalls used to be cleaned and there should be more hooks as well.

Jag

Remember retail room used to say about never going barefoot and your feet attract germs and bacteria which then find things to grow in the body? It's not that graphic, but black urban art on our floor itself. Even though they come up on lack amenities and were blocked from outside by a pile of merchandise. Accommodating staff was the only saving grace.

Selected shops-Market! Market!

	Baya	Folded & Hung	Freeway	Jag	Kashieza	Levi's
Size	****	**	***	***	****	****
Cleanliness: absence of cloths, etc.	****	****	***	**	***	***
Basic amenities: hooks, shelf, locks	***	***	**	***	***	****
Mirror and lighting	****	**	****	***	****	****
Quantity	****	***	**	***	****	****
Service	****	****	***	****	***	**

Kashieza

This boutique-known only two works despite its needs. Cubicles have enough floor space for the non-flimsy shopping bags and, of course, a wide angled mirror for the lady's vanity. It's inexpensive and to-the-less people electricity plentiful when we've got some and the locking glass. Cubicles need a bit of dusting though.

Levi's

Fitting room aisle unbalanced with rat walls, but tough-acting mirrors, protective rubber mats and round at other pant shops, and chunky rail hangs like big hooks. We're talking in-the-open dim-sized smart (if-fanta) curtains. But salesclerks smugly telling us the brands doesn't offer sizes over 29 only unless we

Massimo

The branch has no choice but to face space limitations, especially for fitting rooms. So, framing issue — wood good service from the ones we see (allusions aware).

Penshoppe

Shadows can't escape the list. In contrast to fitting rooms of other branches, the two stalls here fall far on practicality and cleanliness. Two should wipe the greasy mirrors, mend the once-down curtains and sweep the dusty floor.

Petit Monde

So was shadowish lighting. We prefer flattering, not deceiving. Not all clothes that look smashing in dim

SM Megamall

Not all disappointing

Text and photos by Amy L. Ramos

Baya

Only two fitting rooms were available because the third was used as a storage area. It was quite spacious, suitable to squat clothes in a room. Had flashlights for a door. But since selectively patiently-sized guard could not open them filling.

Bench

Six fitting rooms only for sizing for the size of the store, but not enough to accommodate them many shoppers. Points for the extra fluorescent light built-on fitting room apart from the general lighting over the fitting area.

Cinderella

The store is no big for only seven fitting rooms. Other sections of the

CINDERELLA's policy

store are located far from the rooms, and shoppers can only bring three garments at most. Good thing service was good.

Innersoles

There were three fitting rooms, but only two were available as the other one was used for storage. Each room had three hooks and the lighting was too dim and unnoticed. But the staff was friendly and gladly helped me finding size.

Folded & Hung

For a store with lots of shoppers, six fitting rooms still aren't enough. I hastily settle for the most that had a lovely light bulb because the rest of the rooms were simply taken. Pondering the eight hooks and generally clean rooms.

Freeway

The fitting rooms had an hooks and a shelf but, more than enough for the limited number of garments allowed to it. There were three rooms, which I think is sufficient. The cubicles were really attentive.

Her Bench

There were supposedly three fitting rooms. However, we had no hook, and the door did not lock (at least the one I was in), while the door of another room did not close at all. The

SWEEPABLES. The stronger lighting affects our perception of the actual color of the items.

fitting rooms were located opposite an open dirty shoe room. And so were our theirs to guess. But, hey, the lighting was good.

Kashieza

Only four out of the seven fitting rooms were functional because the rest had no hooks or anything else to hang or place their items on. The eighth room was turned into a storage room. However, what they

BENCH: There's an extra light bulb for better lighting.

lacked in amenities was compensated for by the cordial staff and the cozy, homey feel of the store.

Mango

Getting a fitting room was hassle-free as there were eight rooms. Better, there was a fitting room dedicated for the moms. My guy friend was not allowed to enter the premises, sorri was pokey.

Marks & Spencer

We love this store. The nice fitting rooms were the biggest among those surveyed. Each had a comfy bistro seat inside, bright fluorescent lighting, and six hooks. Points deducted, though, for the dirty floor and the walls of the room. Plus, the salespersons were warm and welcoming.

Penshoppe

It wasn't just a regular fitting room. It was like walking into a posh rock manager's bedroom. Heavenly glass-rock structure, complemented by the overall theme of the store

CINDERELLA. A comfortable

KEB BENCH. What privacy can a fitting room with a jammed door bolt provide?

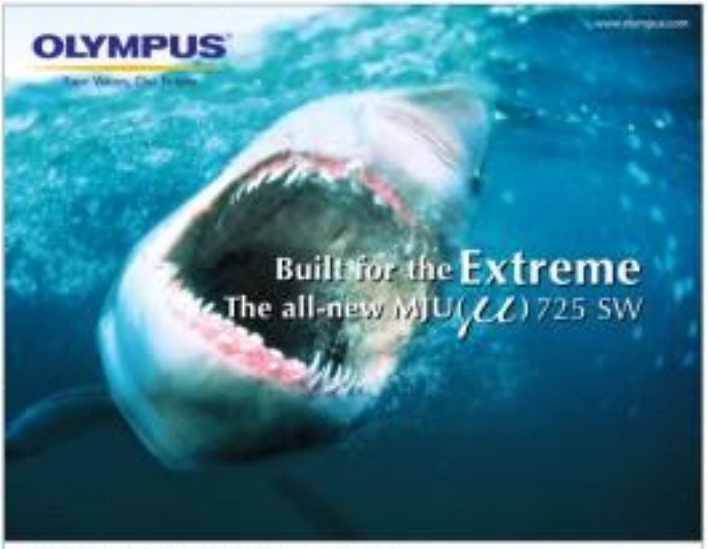
There were six fitting rooms, which I think were enough for the huge size of the store, but too many the like very few shoppers. Points for the spiritedly orb-was attentive and friendly.

People R People

There were only three fitting rooms (the last of which was used for storage). They were pretty low-profile (the unpublished, as we in Sec Hons were allowed to be brought in. Points for the room size and accessories — sitting area, metal hangers and hooks.

Selected shops-SM Megamall

	Baya	Bench	Cinderella	Innersoles	Folded & Hung	Freeway	Her Bench	Kashieza	Mango	Marks & Spencer	Penshoppe	People R People
Size	****	***	****	—	****	****	***	****	****	****	****	****
Cleanliness: absence of cloths, etc.	****	***	***	—	****	****	***	****	****	****	****	****
Basic amenities: hooks, shelf, locks	*	**	****	—	****	****	**	*	***	****	****	****
Mirror and lighting	****	****	****	—	**	****	****	****	****	****	****	****
Quantity	****	***	****	—	****	****	**	****	****	****	****	***
Service	****	*	****	—	*	****	**	****	****	****	****	***



The toughest camera on land just got TOUGHER!

Take imaging to the extreme and do it all! The all-new Olympus μ[mju:](ΖΟΟΜ) 725 SW has the enhanced waterproof feature that reaches depths of up to 15 feet. Along with many other features, the Olympus camera is designed to endure the rigors of the elements – in style.

The Eyes Of OLYMPUS

Meet your Hong Kong travel guide.

There's a hot new way to keep tabs on what's happening in Hong Kong. Have a personal travel guide through the Hong Kong Mobile Host Audio Tourist Information Service. It allows you to access audio guides through your cellphone on important highlights in Hong Kong. Mobile Host will keep you updated on the latest events, great shopping deals, fantastic dining and 42 must see sights in and around the city. Mobile Host will allow you to have an audio tour guide in such places as Hong Kong Disneyland, Ocean Park Hong Kong, Ngong Ping 360, Hong Kong Wetland Park and many more! This mobile Host service makes touring around Hong Kong a lively and enriching experience. It puts you in the center of all the events and action! This comprehensive audio tourist information service is available in English, Putonghua and Cantonese. For more information on Mobile Host visit the Mobile Host wap site: wap.hkta.com or discoverhongkong.com

Mobile Host Promotion:

Buy a 3D/2N Hong Kong tour package from 19 March- 8 April 2007 through any of the participating travel agents and get a free Mobile Host PIN card voucher worth **HK$60** (to be redeemed in Hong Kong). First 100 people to buy the package get the free Mobile Host service. Terms and conditions apply Promotion is good while stocks last!

Participating travel agents:
Pan Pacific Travel Corporation: [illegible] **Tel: 2522-6688 / 852-2522 / 2522-1998** • **Skyrun Travel Corporation:** [illegible] **Tel: 2522-0289 / 852-9996 / 2522-2299**

For more information on Hong Kong, please visit **DiscoverHongKong.com**

HANGER, standard paper plastic-ring bear the floor

LOCKOUT, a door that locks

FUNCTIONAL shelf at the Beach

Selected shops-SM North

	Bayo	Her Bench	Cinderella	Mango
Size	**	*	***	*****
Cleanliness — absence of clutter, etc	**	***	*	*****
Basic amenities — books, shelf, locks	**	***	**	*****
Mirror use/seating	**	***	**	*****
Quantity	***	****	*	*****
Service	***	****	**	*****

SM North Edsa

Renovation going on

CINDERELLA. Not enough fitting rooms for a store thrice the size of a regular boutique

MANGO. Points for its clean rooms, roomy size and amenities

Text and photos by Beth V. Bomboc

SM NORTH EDSA IS KNOWN AS ASIA'S BIGGEST mall. According to one report, the mall attracts 313,000 people a day, or 11 percent of the 100 million Filipinos that the SM malls attract. The mall is currently undergoing a major renovation, or expect the worst?

With the newly opened The Block and a planned expansion, the SM North Edsa is set to overtake SM Megamall as the second largest SM shopping mall next to SM Mall of Asia. The stores at The Block are new and clean.

Bayo

Popular girl brand Bayo is quite big, with three well maintained fitting rooms. There's a fourth one but it is used as a storage room. Mirror points, too, for saleswoman who want to re-accommodating and attentive.

Cinderella

Located at the main entrance of the mall, Cinderella is probably one of the busiest stores in this mall. It is quite crowded, especially during sale seasons, so expect long queues at its fitting rooms. There are only three fitting rooms for a store three the size of a single boutique. The rooms are littered with hangers left by previous shoppers. The air-conditioning is also very poor.

Her Bench

Her Bench has four tiny stalls that are not enough to meet the expectations of its customers. Rooms size is not comfortable for fitting.

Mango

Mango has enough stalls to accommodate its shoppers. There are 14 "curtain-door" dressing rooms, each with one full length mirror. All stalls have perfect lighting with clean carpets, and shoppers can try on as many pieces as they want in one go. The store also has friendly and accommodating staff.

Robinsons Galleria

From page C1

sizes, leave one saree forward to help, once again making me feel as if I had morphed into an invisible ghost shopper.

Levi's

Big points for good service. The girl not only assisted me in finding the right size, she told me about their special sale and size-prices. Then I was led into the fitting room and all of a sudden, I felt like I was in a music video. The entire place was red and the lighting was flattering. There were three hooks and a red chair in one corner. The walls were nice and painted, which would work really well if you wanted to brace yourself against the erotic squeeze into tight jeans. Kudos to Levi's for being the second shopping room and for making shoppers feel like rock stars, even for just a few minutes.

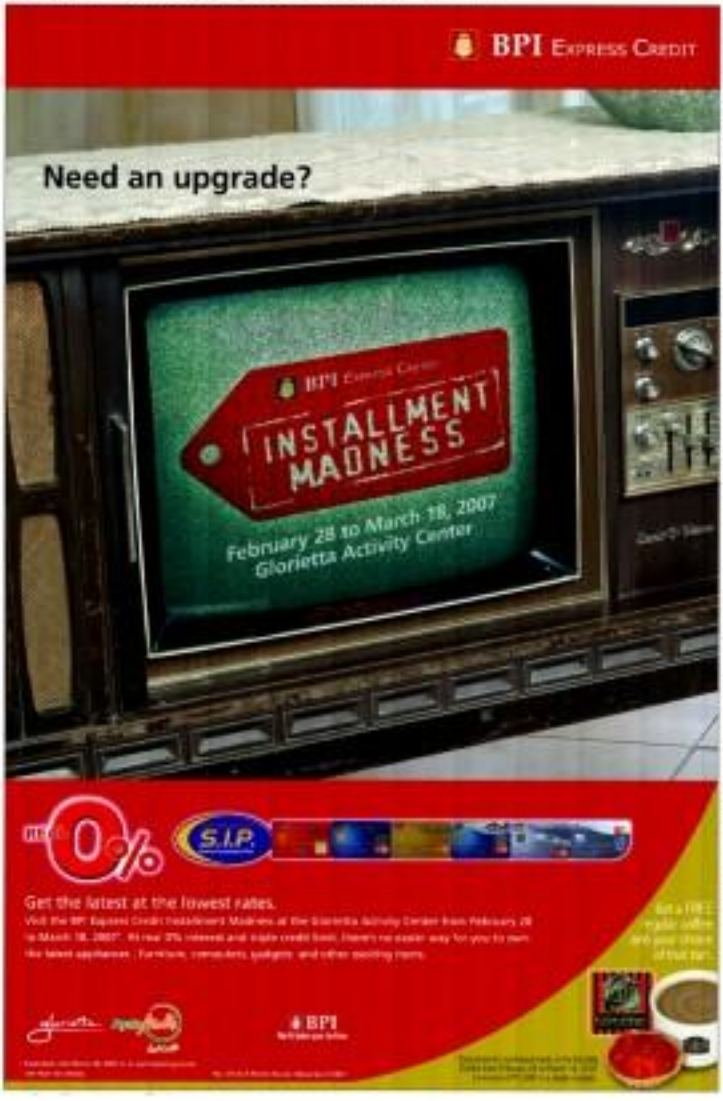
Marks & Spencer

I will forever be thankful to the lighting in Marks & Spencer's fitting room for telling me that I had too much blush on that day. The staff was welcoming, greeting shoppers enthusiastically as they walked in. We got carried the attorney into to the fitting room and waited a couple of feet outside the door in case I needed more assistance. There were no seats inside the fitting room, only hooks and a small ledge where you could rest your handbag. The fitting room was big enough for more to — it was tempting, actually.

Topshop

Service was good from the moment I walked in. One of the girls offered to help me find both size in the right size and carried them for me to the fitting room. Solid black curtains cover Topshop's moving fitting rooms. And the logo mirror covering one wall of the fitting room wasn't enough. There was an even bigger one outside which you can see from the fitting room. It also made look from side. The Last Chance to Buy rack attracts right by the fitting rooms, in case worth a look.

MARKS & Spencer offers good assistance to shoppers who want to try their clothes on.



Sunday LIFESTYLE

ALL FRIENDS, as (from left) Karen Pascual, Jeanne Lee, Kristine Tanseco, Glenda Zaniga Marcelo, Richard Gomez, Lucy Torres-Gomez and Evelyn Dee

SUPERMODELS Bayo Hernandez, Isabel Rivera, Phoenix Barcenas, Bianca Valerio, Bobbie Parreno and Valerie de los Santos

NOTHING goes digital. The men of "eMen" are shown on a loop in a dozen plasma screens. Photos are by top photographer Mark Medina.

Sexy summer, here I come

LONG-TIME friends Wig Tyamzon, Margot Manner, Maurice Amurao and Josephine Rosa

BROTHERS in Arm Han and Alex Van Hagen

LET SUMMER BURST FORTH with total thrill and excitement! As the weather turns hotter and hotter, so do the social events of the city. The temperatures were sizzling at Ramona Pil Kieren Pascual's birthday party-cum-photo exhibit-cum-fashion show-cum-book launch, as his all-male, fully buffed models effortlessly strutted their stuff on an intimately close catwalk.

Ramon is a master at integrating different elements and simultaneously launching one product in a most creative way for his multi-theme birthday, the six-packs were within arm's length such that all the ladies were tempted to get a better grip of those objects of desire! And I'm talking about both the models' abs and the cans of Coke Light they were carrying. Indeed, the calorie-less, subliminal effect is all the more encouraging when the models and you are one hot.

TESSA! Tessa Prieto-Valdes

Trying on the new Speedo swimsuit, the size is perfect but, unfortunately, it is not as flattering on me as it was on the half-Pinoy and half-Brit stunner who modeled it

FUTURE PERFECT

LEAVE THOSE VISIBLE SIGNS OF AGING BEHIND AND HAVE BEAUTIFUL SKIN IN SIX WEEKS WITH THE OBAGI ENHANCE SYSTEM II LIMITED EDITION 5 PLUS 3 PIECE SET WITH SAVINGS OF OVER P9,000

FREE DELIVERY ANYWHERE IN THE PHILIPPINES.
FOR DELIVERIES, PLEASE CALL
844-2636 OR 81-OBAGI (62244)

Belo

OBAGI

G'TYLISH designer Anton Mendoza and Pepper Tedtumbon

MTV'S emcee Yly-Mordineng Filipino-World 2007 Maggie Wilson and actress Anne Curtis

SPEEDO Philippines owner Anna Calderon-Mahtani and mom-in-law Yasuko Mahtani

PHOTOGRAPHER Rupert Jacinto, Maryanne Lemos and Tina Jacinto

ART PATRONS Jacinto Ebrahim and Annie Santos with artist BenCab (center)

ROSARIAN Prima poses for international photographer Rupert Jacinto for "New Work on Philippine Society" exhibit.

Sexy summer, here I come

From page D1

Last year, Color Light had a successful fashion show featuring the country's design stars Ej Dee Lanot, Rhett Eala and Patrice Ramos-Shaw) with an all-female, all-white show for the year. Color Light gave it's white-on-side with a bold thing, all men show with the country's top male models.

The Color Spring/Summer collection looked all to jam-dropping high gear. The range of sexy and yet stylish clothing was pretty enough but more appealed hard bath when the shocking neutral orange sporting just Color green and exposing their gym-contoured bodies.

The irresistibly delicious show ended with the gorgeously young models passing around Color Light. Elated guests were then treated to a scrumptious buffet that was guilt-free, thanks to the operational number of Pizzabelle Co. Positively complemented by free-flowing Color Light, the satisfied crowd continued to mingle in a chill-out setup right next to several TV monitors displaying the top-male models.

As the evening drew to a close, the "oldies" coffee table book, done by ace photographer Mark Nicdao, was placed in the spotlight. A beautiful of favors, this highly visual (read: no need for any words) book of the Philippines' top male models has amazing photographic shots and will be available around the middle of the year.

Once again, Rivera and Color Light have teamed up to produce an event that leaves one with a good taste and no feeling of heaviness. It only life were are so light and easy!

It's not too late to start the fitness and diet regime in time for summer. The battle of the bulge is a constant struggle but reminders and determination can do wonders.

SPEEDO Spring/Summer outdoor fashion show with sizzling models

PHOTO session with Philip Anselmo, Gee Princess, Rupert and Tina Jacinto

Speedo splash

There are so many changes in the latest Spring/Summer Collection of Speedo—ranging from swimwear to fitness gear and nothing wear that camouflage those very sensational bulges. From its high-octane, colorful fashion swimsuits to urban, cutting-edge sportswear updates on its drag-defying, super-stretch body-suits, Speedo has reinvented itself as the coolest brand in and out of the water. It has truly graduated from just the skimpy, groovy, trunk in the '60s Speedo swimsuits to today!

The fabulous motivators at Tristan Chen's Illarion Yoga Manila—the new kid on the yoga-lounge studio come or call 6893041[1] actually wear Speedo. At first, it's pretty difficult to get your mind focused on the practice of this hot yoga but as you really get into the series, it's like we are all dressed a pool—in this case literally a puddle of sweat.

At the very private residence of British Ambassador Peter Hetherington, the eye-catching range of Speedo Collections, with its strong prints and intricate details, was deliciously presented to Manila's elite crowd.

The expansive, outdoor garden fashion show had perfect weather and stage drama making the Speedo pieces shine on those stunning body-and-female models.

From marching Color Light-bulled boys on a ramp to Speedo-enhanced female models, I feel like I seriously need to spend up my sculpting efforts. Speedo Philippines owners Malesh and Anna Mahtani said on the latest bodywear to-wear for my scuba diving trips.

Thanks! The one is perfect for, unfortunately, it is not as flattering on me as it was on the tall, Pinoy and ball-lick scanner who modeled it. The sexy super model a named Anselyn Orlando, and she is a scintillating stunner in her revealing, swimsuit-Speedo suit.

Watching lovelyn strut makes me understand why Vicki Belo has so many clients. As for me, the idea of having to reinvent my entire package is just too much work. Instead, I opt for enhancement via my designer outfits. My assistant designer/yoga buddy Rajo Laurel will just maximize the art of padding in the

JOHN Lloyd Cruz

LIZA Alindy

DAVID Ang Jr./Zoo

QUINNA Fitzgerald of "Proxy Dream Academy"

ROSARIAN Prima poses for international photographer Rupert Jacinto for "New Work on Philippine Society" exhibit.

right places. It has worked perfectly for years.

Exquisito photos

For the upcoming photo exhibit of highly acclaimed photographer Rupert Jacinto, I made sure he got the right angles and scenes during our pictorial. A true artist, Rupert directs each subject in relation to the backdrop and comes up with exquisite photos.

The exhibit "New Work on Philippine Society" will be unveiled on March 20, at Fiamma along Jupiter Street, in Bel-Air, Makati. This event is produced by BSP People & Partners and is presented by Philip Bayan wardhes, Qatar Airways and Cole Haan. The inspiration is a media partner.

Another renowned photographer recently concluded his most successful exhibit together with his brother. Dutch siblings Alice and Max Vatz-Hogan presented a joint 20 series of landscape photographs and exposure exchange. Ava chic cosmopolitan crowd. Titled "Sur Figuré & Sur Usages, Brothers in Art," the well-loved artists' exhibit was recently reviewed by their numerous friends.

Alice told me that she decided to take photos of narrow instead of people as he wouldn't have to deal with different personalities. His beautiful sunflowers reminded me of another famous Dutchman, Giovanni Van Gogh!

Let me end with a special birthday wish for my favorite sisters Kenshe. You've had a homerun, it's start to the next and I hope it continues throughout. Happy Birthday, family!

E-mail the author at inspirecs@inquirer.com.ph.

Portable navigator

Nokia's new-generation technology makes finding one's way through a foreign country a breeze

By Anna A. Jamboro

NOKIA 6110 Navigator

NOKIA 5310

EVADING ARE SAVIOURS A foreign city, the phone, watch or television, these business tools—digital counterparts to your compact device. As today's technology-driven lifestyle increasingly demands mobility, it has also spawned a new paradigm of business behavior. Information on the go, real-time interaction—whenever, wherever.

Nokia recently unveiled a new range of products and services that promises to transform how people are mobile in their private and professional lives.

There was a time, for starters, was too long ago, when TV viewing peak hours began during breakfast, dropped thereafter, peaked once more during dinnertime and slackened at bedtime. When the DVB-H-enabled Nokia 5077 multimedia computer was put on a retail test, TV viewing habits began to change. People normally had their phones tuned in to mobile TV broadcast the entire time, like they would when in their homes even if their attention was not entirely on it.

People can use the television just to have something playing in the background. The behavior, we learned, is the same for mobile TV," said Jennifer Burpee, director, multimedia experiences.

A surprise, in fact, was the mobile TV's usage at home, which surfaced second on commuting. "The mobile phone has been transformed into consumers' personal TV that they watch with a view if they could watch their favorite programs on a much bigger screen," said José Luis Martínez, VP for multimedia.

Services, of course, will vary from country to country and from one service provider to the other. Although mobile TV has been in its infancy stage for quite some time now, for instance, are preloaded into the phone upon purchase. Additional maps, especially useful when traveling abroad, are available on DVD (separate purchase).

"It is the mission of mobile phones to look for great talking and texting phones before building around a new dimension of experiences into that," said Marc Rothschild, product and marketing portfolio management. Tagging photos, for example, is now made possible. The Navigator records the time, location and date photos were taken.

The Nokia 6110 Navigator has 2.4" widescreen display with up to 16 million colors, high-quality stereo sound, alerts when programs are starting and a guide to view program information for up to seven days. Users can also browse TV channels as they would a normal TV, or purchase new channels for a more personalized touch.

The surge of popularity of Internet video content has also helped shape the Nokia Video Center, an apps that brings all sources of mobile video. YouTube and Rovers are among the first global partners in the service that combines branded video services, internet videos and subscribed video feeds from PCs to one single place.

Business solutions are now made easier and compelling, with added security features. These features packed and design-rich devices with 3G and Wireless LAN technologies, plus a Nokia S60 software platform, are intended to enhance the mobile work experience. All are equipped with high-quality cameras.

For business professionals, the Nokia E-series lineup consist of the slim Nokia E65 e-mail-enabled device, the design-forward Nokia N95 slider, and the Nokia E90 Communicator that evolved from the legendary communicator into the all-new inclusive business device with advanced technologies such as HSDPA and integrated GPS.

"Security is always a prime concern for business users," said Burpee. "We find and wipe features where we can erase all the data in your devices remotely should it get stolen," said Martin Nakpajen, VP for enterprise solutions.

Nokia also launched the Nokia Intelligent Mobile Suite 8.0 multifeature. The suite provides mobile e-mail, mobile file and data synchronization and robust security, and device management capabilities in the Eseries products and more than 100 other products, providing the most extensive support in the industry so far.

And what is Nokia's take on the much talked about iPhone?

"I think the big debate really is will there ever be a single device when it comes to music and business uses," said Nakpajen. "The iPhone is Apple's first phone. They will have a long way to go. I personally think it leaves a lot to be desired, and I haven't even gotten into device management yet."

E-mail the author at ajamboro@inquirer.com.ph.

NOKIA E90

GOOD Friends Crissan Oliver-Caldron, Justin Berenger-Testa and Kat Tuason

REAL MEN Luke Jickain, Dave Mendoza, Michael Bejar and John Lopez

BOYS' night out, no curfew Hunter Paolo Portes, Robbie Manansala and Jovince Canlaran

SAMBOO'S Ivo Cruz

GREAT ABS. The gorgeous men of "uMen" open the show with Coke Light in hand.

Having It All

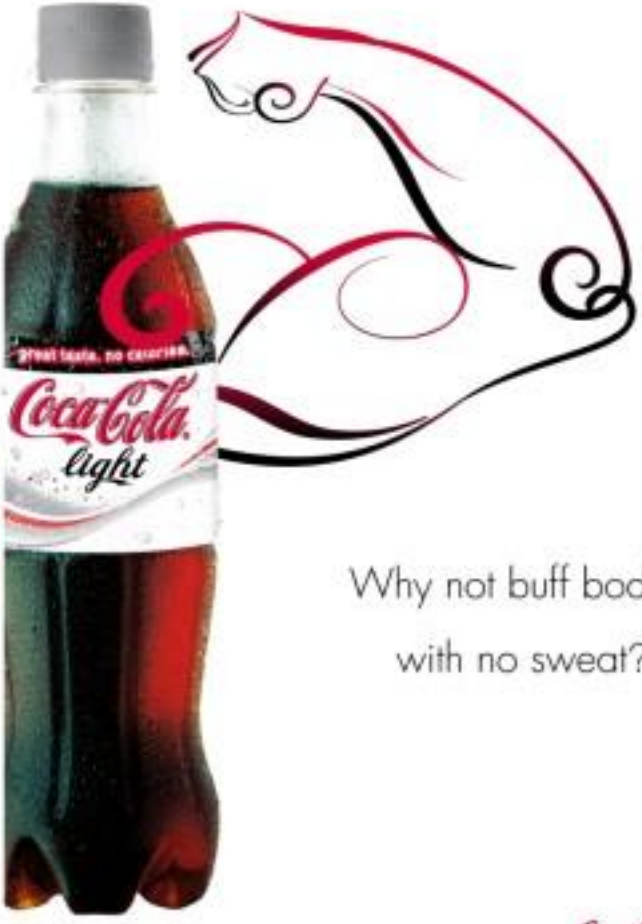
Some people want to live life on their own terms, get what they want, without any hassle. And who wouldn't? Imagine a buff body without having to work out. Or wearing those sexy four-inch stilettos without pinched toes and painful feet! Life would be so much better! In fact, it would be just like Coke Light– all the great taste you love, and none of the calories you don't. You can have as much as you want without any worries!

In an alternate world where you could really have it all: there would be stolen kisses without getting slapped. You could shoot from the half-court line and not miss. Enjoy romantic movie without cheesy lines, and eat cheese popcorn without getting yellow fingers. You could enjoy the best of everything without any consequences.

Well perhaps you can't always get what you want. But you can definitely have it all with Coke Light. All pleasure, no guilt. This you can be sure of.

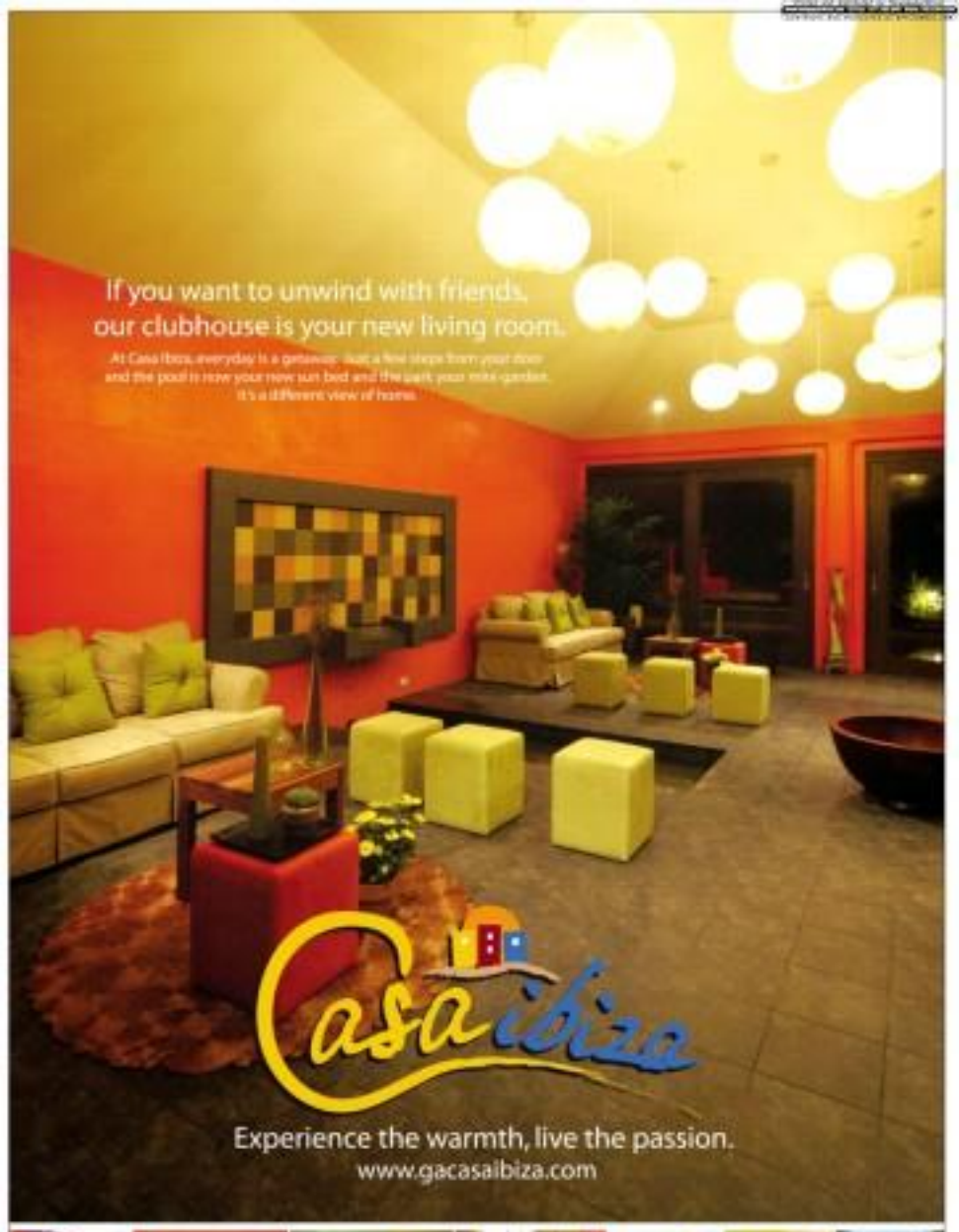
So grab a Coke Light now. It's the first step to having it all.

great taste. no calories.



Why not buff bod with no sweat?

Coca-Cola light
Have it ALL



Buy now and be part of an exclusive community full of Mexican flavor. Only 80 villas to be sold! Hurry! Limited units only.

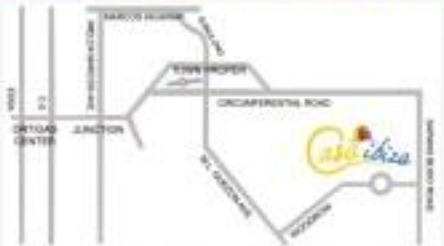
GA

GLOBE ASIATIQUE

REALTY HOLDINGS CORPORATION

For inquiries: (632) 927-8888

www.galifestyle.com



Site Address: Sapang Buho Road, Dalig II, Antipolo City

Sunday LIFESTYLE

MEDITATION
Worship and Address
• Health & Longevity • Scientific Enlightenment
• Psychic Abilities • Prosperity Life
FREE SEMINAR
March 25 (Sunday) 1-3pm, Room 302,
3/F SM, Cubao Mall, G.F. Ultimate Art

Last confession

So why did I, a 'free thinker,' come to confession? I told the priest: 'Because I wanted to find out if maybe there's now room for people like me in heaven'

By Gilda Cordero-Fernando

My folks said, Don't go to confession. The Antiquera's was betrayed by a woman who confounded you priests. —RIP

DURING THE ALUMNAE homecoming I met up again with my kindergarten pals Betsy and Lady. They were part of a gaggle of over-old ladies in tiger-stripe blouses (my contemporaries) asking the priest whether the Mass he had just said would be good for Sunday or would they have to go again tomorrow. They were still bargaining with heaven, it made me nostalgic. It sounded like I was back in good old alma mater-ol right.

Betsy said that the week before, she had made a "general confession" (a term I had not heard in decades!) to a third Italian priest. She recommended it highly, would I like one myself, and I said, oh, yes? Without at all knowing why. You will have to remember all the sins you committed since you made your first confession, Betsy said. (When I was seven?) And she described how clean and light she felt after having been shriven. So, the general confession had not been difficult, not difficult at all.

I suppose I wanted to belong. I wanted to reconnect to my scrupulous childhood that had planted all-hour weekend guilt in my bones.

Three circles

My first grade teacher, a nun, would draw three three circles (that looked like pancakes) on the blackboard to represent "the soul." The first pancake she surrounded with rays, as of the sun, to illustrate "a soul in outstanding grace." Into the next circle she drew polka dots to represent "venial sins" that dirtied up one's soul but that would be wiped clean by classic confession to a priest. The last circle was unrelievedly black. "The soul," she explained essentially, "of a soul in mortal sin!" Mortal sin ranged from not going to Mass on Sunday to killing a human being. (It did not yet include rape since we never only-I and had no idea that pants and skirts hid different things.)

Betsy said she was so relieved that the priest didn't even get angry or scold her. (I thought maybe it was because Betsy was 79 and the Father, 90.) He did not even give her any penance...no rosaries, acts of mortification, litanies or ejaculations (heavens, no!). And Betsy thought she'd be doing penance the rest of her life! (I began to wonder if Betsy had poisoned her husband, she was a witness.) Before leaving, Betsy was told that if she remembered any other sin, she was to consider that sealed, too. (I guess the priest didn't want anyone coming back for a second round.)

My other classmate, Lady, who had also gone for a general confession had, in fact, been tapped off that if she married a woman on Good Friday, and on the ninth day went to confession and received Holy Communion, she would not have to pass purgatory. Ever! I was impressed. It seemed to me, though, like some clandestine trade in indulgences—except that mostly Lady had just every passed the priest a single cross.

I began to remember, too, the marvelling at kids that if a murderer was genuinely sorry for his dastardly deed but confessed his sin immediately to a bona fide priest, and died (even by

LAST >>

A patch of green in busy district

A GRAPHITE parent kid holding a shell located in the newly-designed Glorietta 3 Park

THE NEW GLORIETTA 3 PARK IS DEFINITELY not an ordinary park. The soothing green space is a sight to behold for shoppers, passersby and tourists dazzled into the hustle found in Makati's commercial and business district.

Ayala Malls, which owns and operates the Glorietta complex of mall, has long made greenery an indispensable feature of its urban development.

With the recent redesign of the Glorietta 3 park, Ayala Malls has created a multipurpose outdoor green zone where young urbanites and office workers can take refuge from the hustle and bustle of the city.

Designed as a refreshing retreat from the frenetic pace of the metropolis, the cozy, eccentric space is dotted with tree-lined walkways, enchanting pocket gardens and a new water fountain.

Whimsical sculptures of forest creatures that seem to come straight out of fairy tales are placed among a variety of eye-catching plants—sculptural fronted palms, Fukien tea bushes, Alexander palms, white flamboyant, dwarf Armstrong, and podocarpus—that combine to create a peaceful atmosphere.

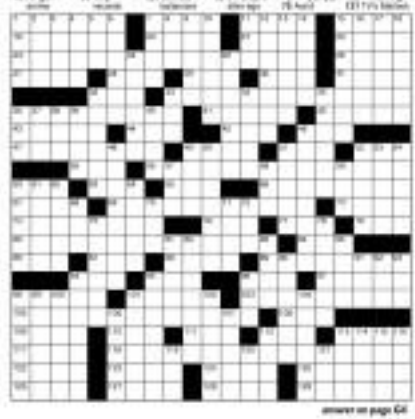
An expansive wooden terrace at the corner of North Drive and Office Drive at the park's east end will house a 'D2C Coffee Café. Visitors to the park can now unwind in the al fresco terrace deck, enjoying a fresh cup of coffee or a light snack.

A tree right by the park may be a perfect venue for lifestyle events and performances. The canopied activity area features a new mobile structure that can accommodate up to 500 people.

FOREST animal granite pavers help accentuate the Glorietta 3 Park

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo — FROM A TO Z



answer on page G4

Bora's newest luxury resort opens

DISCOVERY'S BORA, TAWI-TAWI is become the most prestigious address in Boracay. Really, opens in shoreline Boracay, March 28.

Guests can expect an experience modern tropical luxury amid lush greenery and the ultimate pampering in any of the 40 suites initially available.

Build Layag + Bored Pinoy's exclusive Planning and Interior Design designed the suites to integrate sleek and elegant styling with Boracay's natural beauty.

Early birds can enjoy the special soft opening room rates beginning at US$113 for two persons. Applicable taxes will be added.

The package includes breakfast for two, welcome drink, fresh fruits in the room, and transfer from Caticlan airport. Children seven years old and below who will share the room with their parents are free of charge, no additional US$30++, inclusive of breakfast, will be charged every extra guest in the room.

The Sands Restaurant, Discovery Shores' elegant dining outlet, also opens to offer guests gourmet cuisine inspired by the fresh flavors and colors of the tropics.

Owned and developed by The Discovery Leisure Company, Discovery Shores will have a total of 68 luxurious guest rooms and the world-class Discovery Wonderful Spa once it is fully operational. Also set to open are the Sandbar beach bar, pool bar, library, and Sandbox kid-friendly lounge.

Discovery Shores, managed by Orient Initiative, is a member of the exclusive Small Luxury Hotels of the World (Manila office: 6851222 local 3029 and 6858292, fax 8859895; Boracay: 6036-2884500; VOIP: 632-7208888, fax 6036-2884505, 632-7205555; and discoveryshoresboracay.com).

APRIL pleasures: For those looking forward to a Holy Week vacation, Fun Pacific Hotels offers its "April Serenity" promo. Guests can choose between the Local Residents Rate, valid for the whole month or the Holy Week Special, from April 1-8. Rate for a Superior Room with the Holy Week Special is P500 (P1k for regular/ local residents rate or as low as P4,000++ while a suite is priced at P5,200++. A cots room during the Holy Week entitles guests to a free ticket to the Easter Sunday activity at the Poolside. Call 5340888 for details.

Travel Briefs

Airline marks first year in RP

Etihad Airways, the national airline of the United Arab Emirates, is celebrating this month the first anniversary of its Manila service. Joan Torres, country manager for Etihad Airways in the Philippines, said the country was one of the most promising operations markets in Asia for the airline. During the past year, Etihad Airways achieved several milestones in the Philippines. The most recent, while noting the unveiling of its Boeing 777-300ER in April. Etihad is Etihad's pearl zone (business class) award-winning suit that received The World Cruising Trail Red Dress at the 2006 World Travel Awards. In October, Etihad Airways introduced a brand new menu. Etihad flies non-stop to and from Manila four times a week. Call 8864632 to 35 or visit www.etihadairways.com.

Filipinos now in Top 10 of Singapore arrivals

The Philippines is now among the top 10 countries of origin of Singapore tourist arrivals. Ronnie Chang, area director for Philippines and Brunei of the Singapore Tourism Board (STB), said there are some 380,860 Filipinos visiting in 2006. Chang said pushing the Philippines on the top 10 has achieved two years ahead of the STB Philippines target date, 2008. The 2006 figure is more than twice the recorded Filipino visitors to Singapore in 2003, 178,674. The year 2006 saw the biggest increase in the number of Filipino visitors, 48 percent for a total 380,264 in 2006, the number rose by 35.7 percent for a total of 515,971. Filipinos are also the longest staying visitors in Singapore, averaging over six full days in the city. Call 6734666 or 6733946.

Wine and dine while waiting for your flight

Travelers with plenty of time to spare before their flights may want to visit Travel Lounge just a few minutes away from the international and domestic airports. Operated by the Travel Corporation of the Philippines (TCP), the place is located at the Pacific Mechanic Center Port, Cotton 1 & Mad Hotels, Garrison of Agilo and Tapa de Saka. Those who want to have wine with their meal can rely on Robert, no Joseph and Antony Midnight, the new behind Travel Lounge, to make sure that they get the appropriate beverage for their meal. Joseph, chief of Philippine Wine Merchants and the wine chain Palate's Wines and Spirits, is more willing to give a wide source to wine appreciation for international visitors. Travel Lounge, set up to provide services available to an airline's business class lounge, is geared primarily to the needs of business travelers and other travelers. It offers free massage, a tax exclusive services. The five-star hotel chain and lower cities accommodations to TCP members and guests. Travel Lounge is at 2359 M. J Cruz Ground, Torre Road, Pasay.

STAR CRUISES, one of the leading luxury cruise lines in the Asian region, recently held a one-day product update seminar for officers and members of the National Association of Independent Travel Agencies chapters from Northern Luzon Area, at the Travel Lounge along Tramo, Pasay. Present were Marlene Pajarillo (second from right), Star's cruise senior sales and marketing manager for Philippines and Guam; Baguio Chapter president Cesley de la Rosa; National president Angel Ramos Baguion; and Wilma Moon of top (1st Union, Accra Sun, Pangasinan and Ilocos Norte) chapter.

TOYS FOR YOUNG TRAVELERS

Emirates launched a new line of children's toys on long-haul flights at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, the airline's partner hotel for crew accommodations. The toys come in one of two must-have bags: a colorful rucksack for flights outbound from Dubai) and a cool bag (on inbound flights). Each one comes in two different color combinations. Among the new toys in Quark, which comes in a soft fabric bag with one of five costumes: Sakura the Lion, Yorbie the Eagle, Sydney the Koala, Park-ma Rabbit or Oudki the Elephant. Quark also comes in the form of a glove puppet for babies and toddlers. Our big the bunch, kids also tried Emirates's latest children's menu prepared by Macmahon, the airline's catering partner.

U.S. EMBASSY CLUB
SHOPPERS' DAY BAZAAR
WORLD TRADE CENTER

SATURDAY, MARCH 24, 2007
9 AM TO 5 PM
Come and enjoy the best malls in town.
All proceeds to charity.

Start building your family's future today!
The convenient and worry-free terms of
Robinsons Bank Home Loan will show you how.

FREE GIFT CERTIFICATE

RATES
8.80% Fixed for 1 Year
9.08% Fixed for 3 Years
9.88% Fixed for 5 Years

RobinsonsBank
24/7 ATM

Asia Miles

Earn miles everyday simply by using your credit card. Just convert your points to Asia Miles and give your balance a boost.

Want the miles? Carry the card.

Some people will do anything for a few miles.
Are you missing out?

Last confession

From page E1

electrocution), he would go straight to heaven! In Grade 1 they were always asking members or examples maybe because we knew no members and couldn't dispute anything, certainly not the affront to one's sense of justice.

Not sorry

I wondered, the moment I got home, what I would say in my general confession. How I did not feel sorry about anything I'd done in my life and that there was not a thing I'd like to change? Because that was the truth. My counselors I had tried to understand. I had suffered their backlash because it hurt me to find out what kind of a lousy person I still was, but even more because they had hurt other people. I had already sensed for more of them with the people concerned. The rest (mostly relationships) I was still grappling with and trying to accept as best I could. I felt that pitfalls were necessary in one's journey through life—they just made me softer and leaner. Isn't that what makes us grow? From being ashamed of our bad deeds? Did I have to burden a poor priest with that? I began to regret making an appointment for a general confession.

Then could I, for instance, explain why I had not gone to Mass or confession for something like 30 years—and, once registered it? Didn't that mean that for the same number of years I had not been a Catholic? (Not a Protestant: not a Buddhist nor a Muslim.) Aren't people like me what were called by the name "free thinkers," condemned to hell in the august company of heretics like Voltaire?

Why should a murderer going to confession get better treatment than me?

Two different things

I remember the day several decades ago, when I realized that "being spiritual" or being a good person had nothing to do with religion, that spirituality and religiosity were two different things. Branching for my truth could not be done, in fact, within the folds of any religion.

That day, I went in a book fair and, for years to literary reasons, bought a Bible from a Catholic booth. As I was leaving, I was presented a booklet, a pamphlet on Medjugorje and I said, "No thanks, I am not a Catholic." I was horrified at my refusal. It was the first time I had publicly verbalized my creed. I was agitated. Surely a pack of little demons was hanging on to my shirt and back and I kept looking behind.

That night I went into a deep, deep meditation. I was surprised to find myself asking God if I was still okay in his book. The unreasonableness that spinned in my mind was of course male and female gremlins regulating, much like the earth and sky in primitive myths. In fine, it taunted me but I did not find it blasphemous. Watching the divine act of love, in fact, made me feel reassured—what is existence, after all, but the greatest act of love? If the symbol seemed crude in a pinch now, well, in my limited world, we was a personal history.

I felt a warm and pioneering love physically sweep me. I wanted to pour over my shoulder to see if there was indeed a giant magnificence creature embracing me. I felt infinitely loved.

And I had found each other again. But no longer in other people's terms. Just God's and mine. God didn't even have a role at "he" section with other testaments.

Knowing God

In subsequent meditations I got to know God in a deeper way. God is me, the higher me. He is my blood, the love in my bones, he is my flesh, she is my organs. He is my eyes and my ears and my nose and my mouth. She is my shoulder blades and my breasts and my womb.

God is imagination. God is inspiration. God is all the beauty colors that flood the senses, the blush on the soles of a baby's feet.

God is the energy to fly, to leap, to dance, to romance. God is, as well, simply to be.

God is the gentleness in every human being (whether it is in the heart of an enemy or a friend. God is the strangers who gets off his vehicle in a storm to see how he can help me with my stalled car.

God is the rich and poor trying to understand each other. God is the rich and poor hugging each other.

God is the sky, the clouds, the seas, the deep rivers, the mountains and the plains, the air that I breathe. God is the stars I see and the holes that I watch, the roses on the wayside and the birds that I watch.

God is everything and everyone and everything is God.

God is a warm hug. God is passion. God is sex.

God is learning how to love. God is friendship. God is the solidarity of women taking care of one another, of men taking care of other men, of women and men taking care of one another.

God is one's husband, nice children and a house filled with art. God is ballroom dancing. God is a great salad and maybe a slice of pizza.

When I came out with that meditation in a small article, I really got it. A priest friend told that God being the sky and the clouds and the rain was "pantheism." Someone said I was a "polytheist." Another admitted that God is everything but maybe not the roses and the hollyoaks dancing and the pizza (ah! But much it sound so ridiculous).

I realized that the way people neutralize anything they are not comfortable with is to give it a label. Your painting must be a Picasso, your poetry Edgar Allan Poe, your leaning Marxist. To a scholarly religious, I must be an agnostic, a Manichean, a monotheist, a Calvinist, a Zwinglian, a Quaker, a Christian scientist or a Baha'ist/Jehovah. It reminded me of a lot of good folks labeled "mainstreaming (so)" by other good people who discovered that they did not go to Mass.

And we had not even gotten to that quite overdone part yet! Creation is the sine attribute of God that human beings share. Artists, painters, singers, composers, dancers, writers practiced it all the time. Does that not mean that we are pieces of God? If you are a piece of God, then what are you?

Believe

Blasphemous? To believe that one is God enough to be able to create something beautiful out of the chaos that is our sad lives/owing to dream in life a society that will care for the earth. If we believed we earned the power.

And I see it in all around me. Human beings who create great things out of nothing. When they began, when they were interviewed, they were asked, what resources do you have? And they all inevitably answered, Wala! Just that many years later you realize they have created communities, built houses for the poor, established schools, gone women's rights, pioneered for livelihood and environment saving, created art and drama and dance and song. Out of nothing! Wala!

People create when they are willing to see other options, when they are ready to break boxes and challenge boundaries, are not afraid to look what is accepted and safe. Growth is a spirited and very painful process. A quote goes: Moonlight floods the whole day from horizon to horizon, how much of it can fill your room depends on how wide you open your window.

All said and done

When all was said and done, the priest asked, So why did you come here? And I replied, Because I wanted to find out if things had changed, if maybe there is now room in heaven for people like me.

He smiled and ignored the question. And gave me absolution anyway. If you die tonight, the holy man said, you will go straight to heaven. I said I believed him.

Promise me you will receive Holy Communion tomorrow, he said. I never make promises I can't keep, I said. I told him I submitted he was their religious order (united out their intention) when tremendous good it had done for the Filipino.

Then receive Holy Communion tomorrow, he said. DO IT for me.

Why should I? I said.

God bless you then, he said, opening his Missalette.

Yes, sir, I said, sincerely, and blew the nice old priest a kiss.

"The Last Full Moon" (UP Press) won the National Book Award for "Best Biography." It is available at Fully Booked, Powerbooks, Goodwill, Bigwalk and Alabang National Bookstore, Shangri-La, Greenhills, Glorietta 2, Greenhills 1, Podium and Alabang; Popular Bookstore QC; Solidaridad Bookstore's Metro Points; Booklinks in Cubao Expo and Isetly in Ayala Fairview Bookstore, all branches.

It's Bonus Time!

Discover what's new with Clinique and receive an 8-piece gift set in this trendy pouch for every P3,000 single-receipt purchase.

Clinique Happy 4ml
Clinique Repairwear Intensive Eye Cream 0.5ml
Clinique Liquid Facial Soap .3ml
Clinique Clarifying Lotion #2 .6ml
Clinique Repairwear Contour .7ml
Clinique Brush
Clinique Blushing Powder
Clinique Moisture Surge Extra .15ml

Upgrade to a P4,500 single-receipt purchase and you'll get an additional summer bag.

Available from March 5 to 27, 2007

One gift to a customer, please

CLINIQUE
BONUS TIME

Exclusively available at

Rustan's Makati 3rd. Flr. 894 3321 • Rustan's Shangri-la Plaza 3rd. Flr. 633 8436 local 112 • Rustan's Alabang 3rd. Flr. 850 9961 local 138
Rustan's Cebu 3rd. Flr. 231 7641 • Rustan's Robinson's Place Manila 3rd. Flr. 528 1440 • Rustan's Cubao's 3rd. Flr. 911 2043
Beauty Bar Glorietta 2 3rd Flr. 810 0525 • Multinational 3rd Mkt of Asia 3rd. Flr. 556 0422

Sunday LIFESTYLE

At department stores, you get what you pay for

TENT
+426-4274
Summer at the Garden
City Garden Hotel
Walk the Biblical Path of Jesus in JORDAN, ISRAEL, and EGYPT with MSGR. SABINO VENGCO as the pilgrimage chaplain on April 18 – 29, 2007
For more details, please call ALICE 09075549851/ 8109898 8092764/8092625
Limited Slots Available

By the Staff

HOW IMPORTANT ARE FITTING ROOMS? Going by readers' feedback after we came out with "How's this for size" (Sunday Lifestyle March 11, 2007), the first installment of our assessment of fitting rooms in department malls, they are very important.

One reader wrote: "I was extremely happy to read your review of the fitting rooms of top shops in the metro. It's about time readers get their act together on this one. I, too, feel discouraged and dismayed when I try clothes on and find more space cramped, with poor lighting, broken locks/no locks, chairs, uncommon stuff, etcetera."

Big department stores are likewise guilty of gross negligence when it comes to fitting rooms. Having shopped in most of them, we thought it was fantastic time to give them an eye-opener. Many of the fitting rooms at these one-stop shops are an embarrassment, especially for a country that is desperately scrambling for tourists. But more than the tourists, Filipino shoppers themselves deserve better.

Rustan's in Gateway Mall

Like its other branches, Rustan's Gateway maintains total cleanliness outside and inside of the store. Fitting rooms are discreetly spread all over the store. The rooms are clean, well-maintained and ready for use. Some rooms even have a swivel stool or a cushioned chair for tired shoppers.

Rustan's Makati

This is precisely what you get when you pay for. Save for a rare encounter with a rude candy-bar wrapper, Rustan's fitting rooms are beautiful. Rooms are also airy and expansive to be, also, there's a mahogany chair to sit on. Even better, the rooms have oak doors with mirrors. Makes you feel like running into strangers in the middle of your wardrobe change.

Rustan's in Robinsons Place Manila

Rooms are average in size and the interior's the trendiest. A perpetual cubicle tag lipstick stains on the walls, which boosts interior outfit. Lighting is dim and doesn't help much if you're passionate about the silhouette of a dress.

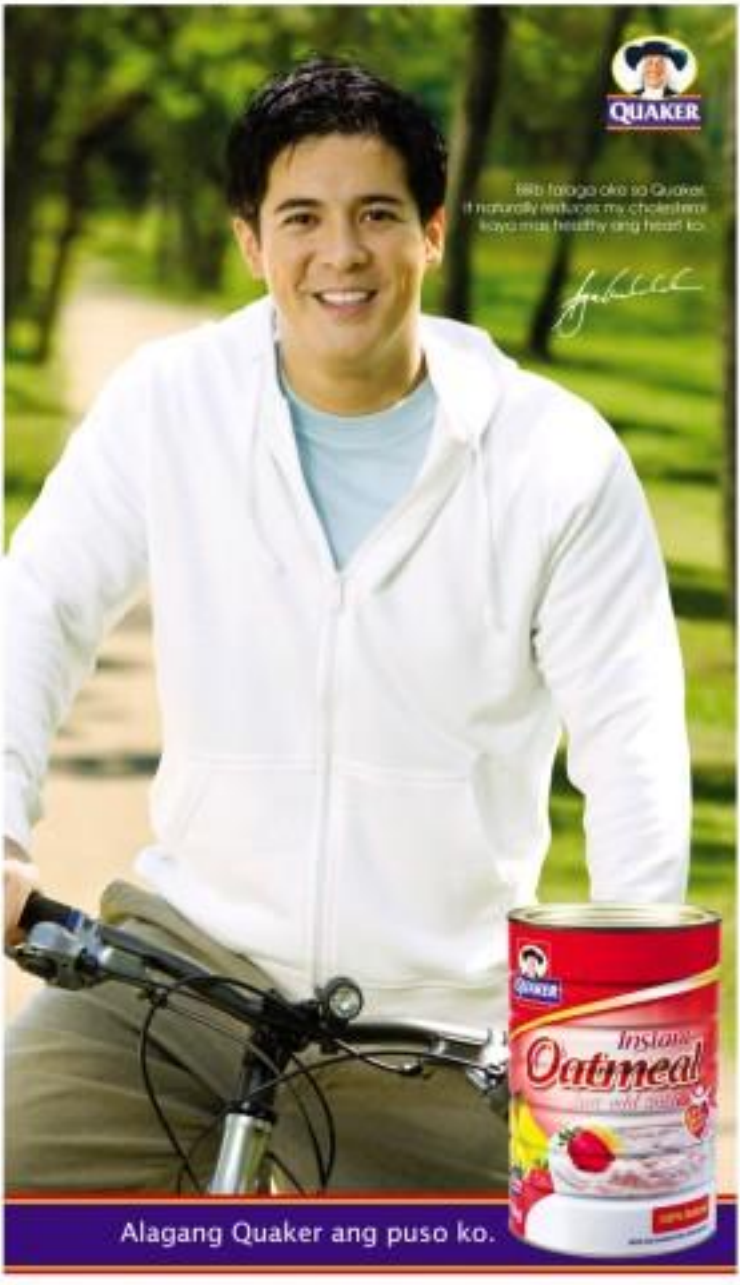
Robinson Department Store (RDS) in Galleria

A single fitting room crammed into a glorified box, really hidden in one corner near the directories and cashiers. Be careful where you step. Because the carpet's worn out. Because someone trimmed the hook, practically falling off. Someone trimmed that mechanism up was of these hygienic liners of a bathing suit bottom and stuck it to the wall—and no one has thought of pasting it off. Two girls outside the fitting room were trying to figure out if it was empty or not. Because it's one room there to let them. It was an

AT DEPARTMENT 11

RUSTAN'S Robinsons Place Manila has enough fitting rooms, but specific stains on sleeveless aren't really good for the white tops we love trying on.

LANDMARK. The biggest mercadito are scratch-tapped signs and hooks (it escapes us what for) outside each door.



AT HETTAD Galvano, the whole family could fit inside and there would still be plenty of room to spare!

EQUIPPED with everything, at Metro Galvano wardrobes are a good challenge

Department stores

	SM North EDSA	SM Mall of Asia	Metro Galvano	Trinoma's Makati	Robinson's Place Manila	SM Megamall	SM Makati 3rd level	Crossings	SM Manila	Robinsons Galleria	Landmark
Size	★★★	★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★	★★★	★★★	★★★★	★★★	★	★★
Cleanliness—absence of clutter, etc.	★	★	★★★	★★★★	★★	★	★★★	★★★	★	★★	★
Basic amenities—hooks, shelf, hooks	★	★	★★★★★	★★★★	★★	★★★	★★	★★★★	★	★★	★★★
Mirror and lighting	★★★	★★★	★★★	★★★	★★★	★★★	★★★	★★★	★★	★★	★★
Security	★	★★★	★★★★★	★★★	★★	★★★	★★★	★★★	★	★	★★★
Service	★	★★★★	★★★	★★★★	★★	★★	★★★	★	★	★	★

At department stores, you get what you pay for

To see page F1

Inspired, the girls thought it would be a good idea to visit the rest of the fitting rooms to see if someone would mind. The fitting room divide with their horns. It was time to get out of there.

RDS at Robinsons Place Manila

The number of fitting rooms is definitely not enough for the sheer number of shoppers who love trying on clothes. The walls and floors are dingy. Most salespersons don't know better than to say not if there are available sizes ("almost as mahusay" all the time) and the locks are tired.

SM in Manila

Fitting rooms in the ladies' wear section are cooked. You have to ask the clerk armed with keys to open the room. So we did, she disapprovingly (did it was part of the mall's security measures. But each swap most rigid big-time inconvenience, ask or no ask, for shoppers. The next best thing about SM, aside from modest fitting rooms, of course, is there are seven rooms and one mirror inside! We have to try on the clothes, then step out to look at the mirror. Cleanliness is also very compromised. "Sa floors are dirty, with one pa! Because outside hindings ever puddle of water. Rooms usually have thin hooks on both walls, which should be enough if you abide by the three-garment-only rule. But since salespersons are in store, you can practically smuggle 10 items in.

SM Makati

(Note: SE walks on the third level (ladies' wear section), there seems to be enough dressing rooms here. Who don't know, though, if that's a sufficient number during sales. This branch scores on the aisles are clean and well lighted. A major pain is having to step out of the stall to look at yourself in the mirrors located outside.

SM in Mall of Asia

Everything about the MOA is huge, except the department store fitting rooms which are barely and filthy. The gap below the door measures much so that's inside. With no bins being outside the cubicle, forcing the customer to step out to be sure and (be sure) not seen by others. It's a shame to have a mall of such scale so small.

SM in Megamall

The floor was dirty, with strands of hair, dental floss and a piece of crumpled paper. Good thing there were two hooks, one for the merchandise and another for our bag. There were seven fitting rooms for clothes, five for tight wear, and another four for underwear. Those for clothes were spacious enough to accommodate their many shoppers. It is inconvenient when shoppers have to go to another fitting rooms, especially so when the salespeople only point you to the direction of the fitting area.

SM at North EDSA

Even with numerous malls on the third level of SM Department store (including housedoming shops like Ace, Leo and Lucky), there seems to be enough fitting rooms here to accommodate shoppers. One can find a browsing room almost anywhere in the ladies' section. But the bigger question is cleanliness. All four stalls located in the ladies' wear section of the store are grimy and with dirty floors, hangers, crumpled paper, plastic bags little 'the floor. The cubicles are not fully

RAK unusual rooms at an SM department store. Almost empty dressing rooms in the Makati branch.

KUSTAN'S Makati: Excellent service. Clean in design.

LANDMARK. Trench-coated measuring rats on the lingerie section. Tacky!

ONE of four revealing fitting rooms at MOA's department store

DARK room. Faulty fluorescent light at SM Megamall

LANDMARK. What's do all these mortar somethings?

don't always there to give you personalized service, perhaps because there are too many shoppers who are to take advantage of the opened possessions for the worst.

Crossings Department Store

Two lights, along two a big mirror, two hooks, grey curtains, a dusty seat. The fitting rooms at Crossings pretty much give shoppers everything they need.

Landmark Department Store

The only white point of the interiors doesn't help this department store look, or clean. Its fitting rooms basically had the same look. In one room, the door had pencil marks all over, the lock was rusting, and the walls had traces of duct tapes stripped off. The biggest turn-offs are a room-repair signs ("Please fill in line"; "No fitting of articles"), and hooks (3 rooms in all) for outside each door. The fitting rooms were generally small and pretty dim inside since most of the rooms only showed lighting in on the dressing area. In order to properly see how the dress looked, we had to step outside to better lighting and better view from the mirror, for everyone to see.

Metro Galleria Mall

The whole family could fit inside and there would still be plenty of room to spare! Obviously, in the cubicle were no mirrors, are beyond room, and no No. 1 queue No. 2 and little no debating whether one's party dress was comfortable enough. Rooms are equipped with amenities, but could improve on cleanliness.

FITTING ROOM FIASCO. SM Manila is jam-packed with people from every distance to inflame in retailers. There last minute Christmas shopping, only worse on this particular Sunday.

EMILY'S POST
Emily Marcelo

Traumatized by mestizo in-laws

DEAR EMILY,

It has been said that if the father is the foundation of the home and the mother is the light of the home, in-laws are the termites of the house.

Funny but true in my case. My in-laws were so cruel and mean to me that my brain couldn't seem to shake off my traumatic memories of them.

When I married my husband 13 years ago, we had no choice but to live with his parents and his four siblings. My husband is meztizo and guapo while I look very ordinary—small and brown-skinned.

We were classmates in college and got engaged after graduation. My husband and I lived with his family for 12 years. I saw cheating and greediness first-hand.

Sometime, I thought there was a bereaved in the house. I didn't realize power was shut off because they removed their blender "bumper" during a surprise inspection.

When one of us got sick and needed someone to watch over us in the hospital for a few hours, we had to pay my mother-in-law to do it.

My in-laws considered me so ugly that my father-in-law wouldn't tell his relatives who I was. My mother-in-law was no different. When my son had an assignment in school and asked her if she had a picture of us here, she told him to just take a picture of me!

All those years, my in-laws never showed affection or thoughtfulness to my kids like they did to their other grandchildren who were all fair-skinned like them.

But their worst offense was throwing us out on the street every time they argued with my husband. One day, my husband was outraged about and brought us along.

My problem is there is so much hate in me. I hate myself for letting it all happen. I hate myself for not fighting back when the relatives called her K. I hate my husband's family and he knows it. He doesn't call them as all. I hate myself for not telling them that they treated me unfairly, unjustly.

They took away my self-confidence, my self-esteem. I don't know how to let go of the pain, the anxiety, the grudges.

Still in spite of everything, they even have the gall to ask us for monthly financial assistance now!

How can I heal me?

HELP

Remember there are always two sides to everything. Always. You may have been oppressed by the mother herself or you and left every bitter emotion in the blood of your body—but you became a stronger, kinder, more insightful and compassionate person because of those very terrible people.

They made your spine flexible and enduring. Understand to you, there were the very elements that pushed you to seek a better life.

In the final tally, the plusses outweigh the negative things. After the tears and the heartaches and headaches, you actually emerged with enough learning and information to face the world. And it only took you 12 years to learn—not a lifetime!

To err is human, to forgive divine. Don't bring shame to further from your mind at this time, but that's ok. You're still hanging on yourself only because you've not been cured that long for the pain of the oppression inflicted on you by these people to start.

Give it time. No amount of writing or talking can undo what you have seen and written, hours, days, months and years you've endured from these "termites."

The moment will come when the people and the memories they caused will become just memories...and even causing pain to you anymore. Your whole past may even be built on jokes about them.

Open wide your mind and allow the sunshine of new ideas, breathtaking sights, and wonderful new people to come in and erase your bitter memories. Life is short. Don't make it any shorter.

E-mail the author at emarcelo@inquirer.com.ph, Subject: *Lifestyle*, or send your letters to Inquirer Lines to Mr. Marcelo on-line the program "Balitaan Ngayon," 7-7:15 A.M. p.m., Monday-Friday, or dial 897-1311 PM.

'But their worst offense was throwing us out on the street every time they argued with my husband'

Robinsons Appliances

Click for Summer!

WIN one of 100 SANYO 5 Megapixel digital camera

for every P1,000 single or accumulated receipt purchase entitles you to one raffle coupon.

Promo Period: March 15 to May 31, 2007

Guaranteed 25 winners for Go! MasterCard holders

Double your chances of winning by using your MetroBank Credit Cards

0% Interest

Triple your chances of winning by using your Go! credit cards

Go!

Go!

METROBANK

Towns nominations now open

NOMINATIONS FOR TOWNS SEARCH 2007 are now being accepted.

Students may come from government, academe, business and civil society. Qualified are Filipino women aged 21-40 who have excelled in their chosen field and have contributed to the development of their field of expertise. They should not be older than 40 years old on July 31.

Individuals, clubs and organizations may submit nominations to Towns Secretariat and to Manny Pacquiao Foundation Inc. Nomination forms may be downloaded at www.towns.org.ph. The secretariat's numbers are 8357132 and 8353396; e-mail townssecretariat@yahoo.com. Manny Pacquiao's numbers are 5221797 loc. 126 5221246; or e-mail tdyson@mannypacquiao.org.

Founded in 1974 by the late Inquirer Manuel L. Quezon Club Interna- national (MQ) 301, Towns has so far honored 120 Filipino women in communications, arts, law, public administration, diplomatic affairs, humanities, advocacy, public service, cultural integration, rural development, community development, medicine, research, nursing, economics, business entrepreneurship and tourism.

Nominees are evaluated based on personal, career and other relevant successes of accomplishment.

Talagang sulit, talagang broadband.

₱995 /MONTH ONLY

GLOBE BROADBAND BUDGET BUNDLES	
MONTHLY SERVICE FEE	₱995.00
DOWNLOAD SPEED	Up to 384 kbps
INSTALLATION FEE	FREE
FREE WITHIN THE SUBSCRIPTION PERIOD	FREE Globelines to Globelines NDD calls and FREE modem!
RECOMMENDED USAGE	Mag-chat, e-mail at mag-video streaming. Super fast downloading of songs and programs.

Also available:
Globe Broadband Budget Bundles with speeds of up to 1 Mbps for only ₱1495 and up to 2 Mbps for only ₱1995!

Ito ang pinagsamang landline at broadband Internet na up to 384 kbps. Enjoy ka sa bilis kasi talagang broadband!

Talagang mas makakasulit ka sa Globe Broadband Budget Bundles. For as low as ₱995/month! Kaya saan ka pa? Mag-Buhay Broadband na! Mag-Globe Broadband Budget Bundles na!

Globe BROADBAND
BUDGET BUNDLES

Call (02) 919-8888 now, or visit your nearest Globelines Payment & Services center.

Promo inclusive not included in the bundle.

Sunday LIFESTYLE

Milestones

We welcome announcements of weddings and engagements. Submit names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, and guests also, along with a photo of the couple and a sketch of the bridal gown, if any, to the Inquirer, PCI Bldg., 2201 Ayala Avenue, Makati City. E-mail to lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. A photo of the bride and groom is required if the wedding has already taken place. Announcements will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the senders.

UY-CO

Billy Uy, son of Adolf and Benita Uy, will marry Sarah Jane Co, daughter of Teresita Rivera Co, today at the Santuario de San Jose.

The bride will wear a Leonard Co all-white metallic organdy gown with pleated off-shoulder sleeves embroidered in fine beads and beaded with tassel crystal beads and Swarovski stones.

CHAN-ACABADO

Richard Chan, son of Ricardo (deceased) and Avelina (nee Penyi) Chan, will wed Precila Acabado, daughter of Pablo Ulecionsil and Imelda (nee Ponsaille) Acabado, on April 21 at the Chapel of the Holy Child, Sta. Rosa.

LADERAS-GIL

Lloyd Laderas and Penny Gil will exchange vows on March 25 at the Shrine of Jesus, the Way, the Truth and the Life, Reception will follow at Coconut Palace.

SALAZAR-DE LEON

Engineer Paul S. Salazar, son of Dr. Cecilia (deceased) and Marcelo Salazar, wed recently Leuda C. de Leon, daughter of Bernardo de Leon and Leonora Campos, at the St. Joseph Basilica-Dipan Church in Las Pinas City. Reception was held at St. Joseph Mini park. The bridal gown was designed by Ito Morales.

ACOSTA-DEBUT

Anne Kathleen T. Acosta celebrated her debut/birthday yesterday at the Manila Bay Sunsetters, 1600 Roxas Blvd., Malate, Manila.

I to gear up

Sony Ericsson

Gear Up Your Sony Ericsson

Solutions Gear for Your Sony Ericsson

Promo Period: March 16, 2007 to June 3, 2007

For every purchase of a Sony Ericsson phone*, avail of discounts for Sony and Sony Ericsson products shown below:

BLUETOOTH HEADPHONE	BLUETOOTH ACCESSORY (MP, AUDIO, BLUETOOTH)	PHOTO PRINTER	MEMORY STICK	SONY ERICSSON ACCESSORIES
P2000	P2000	P5000	P500	P500

What is Bluetooth™ Wireless Technology?

Bluetooth™ wireless technology is a short-range communications technology intended to replace the cables connecting portable and/or fixed devices while maintaining high levels of security. Using a radio frequency band globally set aside for industrial, scientific and medical use, Bluetooth™ enabled devices connect and exchange information in the world's own standard by Bluetooth™ enabled devices is possible.

A2DP

Advanced Audio Distribution Profile (A2DP) is a Bluetooth™ Profile that enables A2DP supported Bluetooth™ devices to receive stereo quality audio.

AVRCP

Audio/Video Remote Control Profile (AVRCP) is a Bluetooth™ Profile that defines how to control characteristics of streaming media. This includes pausing, stopping and starting playback and volume control as well as other types of remote control operations. The AVRCP defines two roles, that of a controller and target device.

PROMO MECHANICS

1. Every purchase of a newly released Sony Ericsson Walkman phone, Cyber-shot phone, Sony Ericsson phone with 3G feature, Sony Ericsson phone with 3.2 megapixel camera, Sony Ericsson phone with 2 megapixel camera, Sony Ericsson phone with 1.3 megapixel camera, Sony Ericsson phone with 1 megapixel camera, Sony Ericsson phone with VGA camera, Sony Ericsson phone with camera, Sony Ericsson phone with Bluetooth, Sony Ericsson phone with MP3 player, Sony Ericsson phone with FM radio, Sony Ericsson phone with memory stick duo, Sony Ericsson phone with memory stick micro, Sony Ericsson phone with memory stick pro

Merger breathes new life into direct-selling campaign

Hella D'Perez, managing director of Fuller Life Direct Selling

By Pam Pastor

THERE IS IT AS MARRIAGE made in direct-selling heaven.

Sara Lee Direct Selling and Tupperware Brands Corp., two global direct-selling giants, recently merged and are now known as Fuller Life Direct Selling Philippines, Inc.

This year marks Sara Lee's 14th year and, for Hella Perez, managing director of Fuller Life Direct Selling, this is only the start of better things.

"Change is good. The good life just got better. We are taking Sara Lee Direct Selling to the next level. This is an opportunity for better earning for more and more Filipinos and their families," he said. "Expect a stronger, more caring, more relevant direct-selling company and the beginning of better and more exciting possibilities for our customers and sales force."

Sara Lee has been one of the world's largest direct-selling companies for years. From 800,000 Sara Lee dealers, Fuller Life and Tupperware now have 1.7 million trained direct sellers in 40 countries.

Perez says of Fuller Life dealers in the country: "They're not good; they're remarkable."

Perez promises a lot of incentives that Fuller Life dealers can look forward to. There is, among others, the Loyalty Advantage Bonus which allows registered dealers to accumulate rewards points and exchange them for prizes and special promos.

Goodbye, Sara Lee. Hello, Fuller Life

Dealers who sign up as independent business managers (IBMs) are in for bigger treats. Top-selling IBMs get to enjoy all-expense paid trips inside and outside the country. There's even a free orthotic plan that will give high-performing dealers the chance of the latest car models.

Products available through Fuller Life Direct Selling include underwear, shirts and lingerie by clothing firm Hanes; sportswear from Champion; pots-up teas from Wonderfree and Physta; baby products from Avent; and

Over 800-pos

iDesign

www.idesign.com.ph

SOLUTIONS for small spaces. The paint and five rectangular mirrors from Handyman give depth and space, and breathe new life into Ma'ane' small living room.

Ultra-moder

LIZA MARINO, A CIVIL ENGINEER TURNED teacher and entrepreneur, wanted a makeover of the living room in her old Marikina home.

With the help of Real Living Magazine and Handyman Do It Best Home Center, among other sponsors, Marinas breathed new life into the room.

A little rearranging, recycling and repainting made things better. Handyman's ultra-modern fully automated Semi Gloss (with quick-dry solution and exclusive Do-it-Best Select Paints) produced the exact colors needed.

The Home Center has state-of-the-art database

SHABBY no more, after Liza decluttered, repaint

CEBU CEBU
Jaime Picornell

Cebu Quotarians honor pioneering women

THE QUOTA INTERNATIONAL OF CEBU celebrated its (not) Anniversary (50 years) at La Terraza of the Casino Español de Cebu.

Cristina Geronimo, the current president, led the Quotarians in honoring the ladies who have been with the club from day 1 back in 1957.

Those are president emeritus and founder Lydia Ybañez, Loreta Calderon, current vice president for internal affairs; Lourdes Garcia, Soriano Rodriguez and former president Tina Oppus who couldn't attend because of a fever. But Tito Sitle graced granddaughter Isla Hebenstreit, in the arms of club secretary Evelyn Ramirez, collected her plaque.

Guest of honor and speaker was Rep. Eduardo Gullas, who is a member of the Quota Club of Lapu-Lapu City.

Acknowledged were two visiting Quotarians—Amara Montaglani Lowie from Biloxi, Louisiana), and Gina Ceballos from Sydney (Australia) who gave the club a check for AUS$1,000.

The Quota Ladies will find good use for the donation. One of their adopted projects is paying the salaries of teacher interpreters at the Pilot High School for Hearing-Impaired Children in Banilad, Cebu City.

The ladies also maintain daycare centers in the densely populated city area of Sinawang Cabuco, and the seven-unit inaccessible mountain barangay of Cadulawan.

The budget for daycare centers also includes feeding the children, salaries for social workers, and medical care when needed. Another daycare center will open at Talamban, Cebu City.

The Quotarians have been able to purchase land, and Rep. Raul del Mar promised to help with the construction.

Annual 'sorteo-raan'

The Cebu Quotarians get a major part of their funding through an annual sorteo-raan. This year it will be held May 5. The event starts with holy mass at 4:30 p.m. at Immaculate de San Carlos in Mabolo. The procession that follows ends at the Cebu Grand Convention Center where the sorteo-raan site will be held.

Connie Mapaso Garcia, the club's VP for external affairs, is chair of Sorteo-raan 2007, a Philippine festival that commemorates the finding of the True Cross by Saint Helena, mother of Roman Emperor Constantine.

Schoolchildren from Lydia Ibañez's St. Benedict Childhood Education Center are tapped as participants. They sell raffle tickets and those with the highest sales get key roles in the Sorteo-raan.

Little girls vie for the title of Reina de los Angeles, winners for Reina de las Horas, and elementary-level boys for Emperador Constantino. All other participants take roles as angeles and principes.

More funds are raised from the club souvenir program named every year, and from solicitations by prominent ladies who are approached to complete the dramatis personae in the pageant.

This year Lisa Torres will come from Bangkok expressly for the purpose of being Reina Emperatriz. Pamela Samaniego will be Reina del Sorteo-raan, while Shyrha Ann Canoy will be Reina Elena.

Aside from Lydia, Tina, Loreta, Connie and Evelyn, full support is given by the rest of the officers who are in various committees. They are assistant secretary Lourdes Abellana, treasurer Dulce Santiangco and Linda Rasa, auditor Marcia Arellano, PRO Pinky Muaz, past president Ate Mapaso and directors Pely Echandino, Sue Ortiz, Kasper Julia, Lourdes Manalpo, Cecilia Balcueva, and Ma. Luisa Velasco who, as chair of the Pearl Anniversary, received due praise and congratulations for a memorable evening.

TREASURER Linda Rasa and Dulce Santiangco with Gina Ceballos from Sydney, and Quota Cebu president Tina Geronimo

PEARL anniversary chair Ma. Luisa Velasco and St. Benedict's registrar Socorro Cuadilla

THIRTY years of loyalty awards for Loreta Calderon, Lourdes Garcia, president emeritus Lydia Ibañez and Soriano Rodriguez

LISA Torres, Reina Emperatriz of Quota Cebu Sorteo-raan 2007

...sibilities in just one click

Another real estate breakthrough from...

Community Innovations
Live the life you deserve
an AyalaLand company

25 March 2007

...n paint mixing technique

...which measures color combinations and files customer's information for repeat orders.

Hinirian appreciated tips she got from Handyman's sales people on how to organize things and redecorate a bedroom.

There contests are available at Handyman Do It Best Center in Robinsons Place Pioneer, and select Handyman Do It Best Home Center branches in Robinsons Galleria, Robinsons Place Ermita and Festival Mall.

The service stations offer free computerized paint mixing service for Do It Best Jotlex Paints. Call 3955260 or visit www.handyman.com.ph.

THE LIVING room now sports a modern aquamarine and brown-toned hue using a special "wash out" technique and paints from Handyman Paint Center

...and revamped for a more updated chic character.

CIVIL engineer-turned-interior entrepreneur Liza Marinas enjoys her cozy living room

BEVERLY HILLS ICYDI, in partnership with Inquirer and Smart telecoms, launches the first ever reality beauty makeover contest to be extensively covered by a newspaper. Seated from left is Dennis Leung, Inquirer product manager; Mylene de Jesus, Inquirer sales officer; Rosario Belonias, Inquirer SVP-Sales and Marketing; David Bonoan, Beverly Hills ICYDI president; and Jessica Bonoan, Beverly Hills ICYDI marketing director. The contest dubbed "The Search for My Ugly (Me Mary)" begins March 16 and can be read in the INQUIRER over the next 10 weeks.

Summer musical theater workshop in Cebu

VETERAN THEATER ARTIST MICHAEL Williams will once again be based in Cebu this summer to supervise the musical theater workshops at the Sinugs Avenue campus of the Sacred Heart School-Jesus on April 16-May 6.

Organized by Little Boy Productions and the Sacred Heart School-Jesus, the workshops aim to introduce kids to theater and the performing arts, develop their talents and foster teamwork, discipline, commitment and support, while making new friends along the way.

There will be two classes: Children's Musical Theater for kids 6-12 years old, and Musical Theater for Young Adults for those 13 years old and above. Both workshops run April 16-May 6, with daily sessions of three hours each Monday-Friday for three weeks, comprising acting, voice, and movement classes that will culminate in a presentation for family and friends at the Sikatuna Dream Theater on May 7.

Michael Williams was part of the original London cast of "Miss Saigon" and went on to play Lun Tha in the London revival of "The King and I." He is a resident actor of Repertory Philippines. He has appeared in over 100 plays and musicals such as "Les Miserables," "The King and I," "The Sound of Music," "Man of La Mancha" and "Cabaret." He has also directed many plays and musicals for Repertory Philippines, including "I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change," which toured Cebu last year.

Workshop fee is P4,000. Call 2565036/4565036/09175435704 or visit The Secretariat at Ecoma Excellence, 3/L Mantra Plaza (across Ecoma), Sinugs Avenue, Cebu City.

FR. LEOPOLDO Jaucian, bishop-elect of the Diocese of Bangued

PURELY PERSONAL
Josephine Barcelo

New Abra bishop; new UST Seminary rector

FR. LEOPOLDO CORPUZ JAUCIAN, provincial superior of the Society of the Divine Word, was appointed by Pope Benedict XVI as the new bishop of the diocese of Bangued, Abra last Jan. 5. He will be ordained bishop by Cardinal Rosales on March 26, 9 a.m., at the Shrine of the Divine Word in the Christ the King Seminary in Quezon City. He will be installed bishop on March 31, 9:30 a.m., by Bishop Sergio Utleg of the Archdiocese of Nueva Segovia.

Jaucian replaces Bishop Antonio Tobias, who is now bishop of San Fernando, La Union. He became the seventh bishop from the Society of the Divine Word.

At 47, Fr. Jaucian will become one of the youngest Philippine bishops.

When Leopoldo "Bol" Jaucian was born on July 27, 1960 in Santa, Ilocos Sur to Ernesto Hallazgo Jaucian Jr. and Veronica Bello Campos, Nana Cresa, the midwife, was heard to have remarked that the baby had a bald spot on the top of his head. In Ilocano, she said that the baby might become a bishop.

While growing up, the boy Bol would attend Mass at the Divine Word Academy where he was a high-school student. His family was so poor that his future lessons availed at cost to him as a fisherman in Santa town; a sugarcane estate farmer in Hermosa, Bataa; then a janitor at the Divine Word Formation Center in Dichoson, Pangasinan.

In the meantime, the seed of vocation had been planted in the young Bol. He took the bus to Manila after high school to apply as a full-time sacristan at the Christ the King Mission Seminary in QC. Thinking that only the rich could only become priests, he asked God for a sign saying that if he were hired as a sacristan, it would be a sign that he could eventually receive a scholarship to study for the priesthood. He was hired as a sacristan, but he never received a scholarship.

HSGR. Fernando Coronel PWU chaplain

FR. GERARD Francisco Timoner III, OP, UST Central Seminary rector

Instead, he studied at the Ateneo de Manila University where he graduated with a degree in Philosophy in 1982. He then entered the Society of the Divine Word and took his first vows on May 1, 1983. He finished his theological studies in Tagaytay. Bishop Miguel Cardoso, SVD, ordained him priest on March 11, 1988 at the Divine Word College Chapel.

After ordination, he returned to Ilocos to become assistant pastor of the St. Joseph the Worker Parish in Chirel for one year, then worked as a campus minister in Fu Jen Catholic School, also in Chirel, for three years. He returned to the Philippines to study guidance counseling at De La Salle University from 1992-1995 while helping out in the St. Jude Catholic School and at the St. Jude Archdiocesan Shrine, respectively.

From 1995-2000, he was assigned to St. Jude Catholic School. In 2000, he became the parish priest of the St. Jude Archdiocesan Shrine and concurrent rapector of the SVD Manila District and Vice Rector of the Novitiate of San José de Tanay of the Archdiocese of Manila.

Bishop-elect Jaucian's motto is: "Remain in Me and I remain in you..." (John 15: 4-5).

New UST Seminary rector

Papal Nuncio Archbishop Fernando Filoni will preside over the installation rites tomorrow, March 19, 5 p.m., at the UST Santissimo Rosario Church of Fr. Gerard Francisco Timoner III, OP as the new rector of the University Santo Tomas Central Seminary.

The UST Central Seminary is the Philippine interdiocesan seminary run by the Dominican friars. It's known as "the Philippine Military Academy of the Philippine Catholic Church."

Some 80 percent of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines have come from the seminary. Fr. Ricardo Baroña, who was recently named auxiliary bishop of Bayombong by the Vatican, and at 44 years old is the youngest Filipino bishop, is a UST alumnus. Even with the new Manila auxiliary bishop, Bishop Broderick Pabillo. Alumni hold important positions in the other Asian churches as well.

Himself a product of the UST Central Seminary, Father Timoner studied philosophy and theology at the Dominican House of Studies in QC, UST Ecclesiastical Faculties in Manila and Catholic University of Nijmegen in the Netherlands.

New PWU chaplain

Archbishop Emeritus Cardinal Rosales of Manila recently appointed Msgr. Fernando Coronel, former secretary general of Catholic Bishop's Conference of the Philippines, as the new chaplain of the Philippine Women's University.

Prior to this assignment, Msgr. Coronel also served as rector of the Manila Cathedral and was president of Radio Veritas and concurrent secretary of Radio Veritas Asia.

Santuario de San Jose

The Sacrapado de San José Parish observed the nine-day Novena of Masses to celebrate feast of its patron saint, St. Joseph, on March 14. Fiesta Mass is at 6: 15 p.m.

To make the novena especially significant, Fr. Vitti B. Silva, OSA, parish priest, and the pastoral council involved the parishioners; novenists of Candelaria, devotees of St. Joseph, members of the parish organizations; and benefactors of the past years namely Boles Tiaxiaman, Rene Jr., Josie Razon, Isaac Percilla-Reyes, H. Enriquez, Milagros Ysmig, Fausto Carello and Jr. Bonica Mesa.

This year's honorary is Lourdes Co, an active member of religious organizations and civic bodies.

St. Joseph Church in Echague

The newly constructed parish church of St. Joseph the Worker in Echague, Isabela will be blessed by Tuguegarao Bishop Ramon Villena at 9:30 a.m. Thirty-eight priests from the different parishes led by parish priest Fr. Welck Henry Pascasio IV Dawn Mass will concelebrate.

Fr. Pius, the St. Joseph of Echague Neighbors' Association, Inc. and other mandated organizations spearheaded the construction. The design of the beautiful church is a collaboration of architect Pablo Antonio Jr. and architect Jose Batung.

Generous readers of this column who may want to donate to the new church may text Jerry Rubon Lopez or Sr. Winnie Gonzaga at 0919.3220779.

Presentation of the Child Jesus

The Presentation of the Child Jesus (PCJ) Parish will celebrate its 25th founding anniversary on March 25, with a Silver Jubilee Mass by Papal Nuncio Fernando Filoni at 10:30 a.m. The church is at the corner of F. Ortaz Street and Aguirre Avenue, inside BF Homes Parañaque.

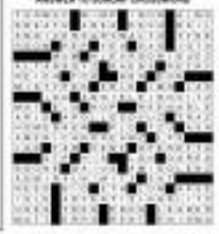
From a makeshift structure of used GI sheets and donated lumber was built in 1982, the PCJ parish has grown over the years into a complex parish center that addresses the needs of its parishioners.

In Barangay Pinoray in Tanauan, Batangas, the residents will celebrate the feast of St. Joseph. "Pinoray" is a derivative of the name "Magpantay"—the family name of the late Lim. Lucas Magpantay Sr., grandfather of Marian Magpantay.

Refreshing colors to suit your taste

Get a chance to win an iPod Nano or Shuffle with McDonald's Float

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD



ENTERTAINMENT

Edsa Encarnacion Q. Velarde

Joey Gosiengfiao was planning his directorial comeback

'Eternal master of Pinoy camp'

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

CINEMA WAS THE most enduring passion of director Joey Gosiengfiao, who succumbed to a heart attack, his sixth, on Friday—a day after his 66th birthday.

Inquirer Entertainment witnessed Gosiengfiao rummaging through movie queen Amalia Fuentes' DVD collection, borrowing several titles—all Hollywood classics—last October.

"He loved watching movies," recalled Regal Films' Lily Monteverde, who produced Gosiengfiao's biggest hits: "Temptation Island," "Underage," and "Scorned."

"He grew up in a showbiz family. His director-filmmaker father, Conrado Gosiengfiao, was a prominent lawyer in Pagsanjan. An uncle owned a theater where Joey played behind the silver screen."

Perez said he met Gosiengfiao when they were students at the University of the East. "He confided that his life was like the 'Evanescent Williams' play 'The Glass Menagerie,'" Perez recounted. "His mom Marta was pure Japanese and looked like Luisa Torres. She was wealthy and genteel. Their house was filled with books. I used to borrow books by Hawks and Kafka from their library."

He would forever remember Gosiengfiao as "a bohemian in a cardigan, a cigarette dangling from his lips, like French actress Jeanne Moreau," Perez said.

From school plays, they jumped to TV as directors on the drama series "Dalawasampu." When the sweets beckoned, they made the big leap together.

After working as co-directors in "Liquid, Damsa, Liquid" in 1972, Bitoy's family produced Gosiengfiao's solo film, "La Paloma," in 1974. It top-billed Mona Lisa, Celia Rodriguez and Gina Cortez.

"La Paloma" is one of the films featured in the Gosiengfiao retrospective, currently running on Cinema One, MIO-CINE. Filipino movie channel on cable.

"We got a Hititit black-and-white copy from Derek Joey," said Cinema One's Ronald Arguelles. "He planned to hold a big screening event, to raise funds for his medical needs."

Last time Arguelles saw Gosiengfiao was on March 6, during a taping of an interview for the retrospective. "In that interview, he mentioned that his favorite movie was 'Bridgeport' because it was based on his student life," Arguelles said.

STORY, P. 4C

Singapore stage group to tell porn star's story

SINGAPORE—A PLAY ABOUT THE LIFE OF local porn star Annabel Chong—who gained international notoriety for her 1995 film showing her perform over 200 sex acts—is likely to push the envelope of public tolerance in conservative Singapore.

The play's producers hope it will challenge some of the preconceptions of Singaporeans, who have long professed a love of traditional "Asian values," even as the government tries to portray a slightly more liberal image.

World record

The video of Chong's antics, which the producers billed as a world record at the time, has never been available in Singapore's stores because pornography is banned here, and Chong has since retired from the industry.

But now Singapore's Toy Factory Productions, an independent stage group, is writing the 31-sated actress' brief but controversial career to a play titled "2011" that opens next month.

"2011" explores a little known side of Chong—including her troubled experience with religion as a teenager, a violent sexual assault as a college student overseas, and the intellectual premise of the video that earned her a spot in porn history.

"Whether we like her or absolutely hate her, we can't deny the fact that she is very much part of our neighborhood psyche," said director Loleyta Chia. The cast includes local actress Cynthia Lee Hueiquanin and four others.

But "2011" has already been criticized even before its April 5 opening.

"I think it's cheap and vulgar to use Annabel Chong as [a] play production," one user named "Timmy" wrote in an Internet online forum, yesterday.

Playwright Ng Yi-sheng, who wrote "2011," said the criticism was unsurprising.

"Annabel is iconic to all Singaporeans because she's a form of sexual chaos," Ng said. "Just to say her name is to suggest a taboo."

In one scene, the Chong character encounters a childhood friend to whom she reveals that her exploits have perhaps affected her self-esteem.

"You never told me," the friend says.

"I sold my body to everyone—to the church, to the strip club clientele, even the lonely men and women in their homes in front of their video cameras," the actress responds.

Partial nudity

Director Chia said there would be partial nudity in the play, but declined to detail how they would depict the events that earned the play its name.

Annabel Chong was the stage name of Grace Quek, 34, who is now said to be leading a quiet life as a Web designer in the United States since leaving the porn industry in 2000. Quek has since declined media interviews and attempts to contact her were unsuccessful. AP

DID YOU KNOW...

GOOD ENOUGH MAN: director Georgia Ortega in his last feature film, "Nights of Serafina," 1996.

'Eternal master of Pinoy camp'

From page B1

"He should be remembered for his support of young filmmakers," Ivonne observed. Gonzaga-Ilao was supervising producer for Good Harvest, a subsidiary of Regal, which produced the so-called pito-pito movies (Tom Tsuchiya, shot in seven days and presented in seven reels) by independent filmmakers Lav Diaz, Pete Tarlac and Jeffrey Jeturian in the late 1990s.

"It is easy, pito-pito movies were the precursor of today's digital movies," Jeturian said. "Budget was limited. Our war had a free hand."

"That was an exciting and highly creative period," Tarlac said. "With a budget of P2 to P3 mil. [less, if end-user presold rights]."

Jeturian related: "Two months ago, I think [my wife] asking me to recommend a scriptwriter because he was planning his directorial comeback."

According to Agapollen, Gonzaga-Ilao has full length films to "Nights of Serafina" to 1966.

Jeturian requested: "I think Amy wanted a writer who understood his humor. I suggested Chris Martinez, who directed the stage version of 'Temptation Island' at the Cultural Center of the Philippines in 2002."

Over last night, Gonzaga-Ilao watched "Temptation Island" at the CCP—with his sister Ivonne's husband Dino Bumpurao, according to Martinez. "At curtain call, I gave him my bouquet of flowers."

'Serafina' parties

Martinez recalled that his UP theater friends had nicknamed "Nights of Serafina" parties in their younger years. "We would rent a VHS copy of 'Serafina' from ACE Video and laugh all night." Later on, they threw "Temptation Island" parties. "All my friends knew that movie's lines by heart. [Cesar] Julio Lajusa produced the stage version. He had the script memorized from rehearsals."

Diaz hailed Joey as an "eternal master of Pinoy camp."

Bumpurao insisted that no one could rival Gonzaga-Ilao when it came to witty lines and wacky ideas. "One line from which is my mind. Once a waiter, always a waiter' for 'Temptation,' he had a guest ice cream cone and fried chicken in the middle of a shower!"

Gonzaga-Ilao was also her guardian, she said. "I was only 17, and my dad entrusted me to him. He rushed me to the hospital when I was sick, and I when I fought with [my boyfriend and current] fifth] bride, he acted as mediator."

Homecoming fit for a Prince

By Mel Valera

BAGUIO CITY—CRUMBLING (the town which looks to bring home the next big star in the reality talent search "Starstruck The Next Level," survivor Prince Stefan made the most of his homecoming here on Wednesday.

Bit shine stutter, University of San Agustin, was his first stop in a mini-blitz tour of this quiet and Western Visayan city.

Stefan, 20, was a fourth year high school student at the University of San Agustin before he joined the talent search since mid-2006.

"I was touched by the welcome I got from the students," Stefan, speaking in Filipino, told Inquirer Entertainment. "I found out that the female students' enthusiasm for their representative until late at night—until it was none more!"

Text pledges

After the show at the school gym, Stefan signed autographs for the students, who all pledged text votes for the son of Lito Anducenas, a former seaman-contract worker, and Josel Alfa Al Abraham Hasad, said to be a Saudi royalty.

Earlier in the contest, Stefan revealed that he had yet to meet his father, whom he hoped would finally see him as he performs on national television.

"My mother told me she was able to contact my father a few weeks ago," Stefan said. "She told me that I told him that I was in 'Starstruck,' and then she had mentioned his name on TV. My father didn't mind that my broadcast his name. He told my mother, it was OK."

Stefan, admitted he had passed "Starstruck" so that his father would find him.

"But I've learned to love my work here—and now I am hoping to win," Stefan said. "With the help of the Baguio, maybe I have a better chance."

Veteran of sorts

The titles up for grabs in the talent search are Ultimate Love Team, Ultimate Rival and Ultimate Sweetheart.

A veteran of local amateur contests in Iloilo, Stefan said he had experience losing to the end.

"You can't please everybody," he said. "Yes, I sense fierce competition (To each his own), but I think the Baguio are behind me as a solid block. They were behind Dale Cruz last year. One on Cadiz was a runner-up of GL (Grade Survivor Marky Cielo)."

Another survivor who's thinking on the Visayas vote is Ruth Reinerio of Bohol. Last week, Reinerio had her own homecoming in Tagbilaran City, where she made her appeal for text votes from the parish churches and other civic organizations in the city.

Poor Rich

But first, she told Inquirer Entertainment that she was heartened to see that she was backed by text votes, which she couldn't finance owing to her family's own limited resources.

In Iloilo last Wednesday, Reinerio returned to her southern home for of the citizens of this Western province.

"I think I have conquered the whole Western region," Reinerio said. "In Cebu last Monday, the people were cheering for me, one Nova Rivera, the 'Reina,' and that was me."

But Reinerio said the fan she realized that people would be inconsistent when it comes to voting.

"They might like you one time, but they might choose to vote for another candidates," she said.

She admitted that the other female survivors—Kris Bernal of Quezon City and Josel Mischa of Bulacan—were more popular than her.

Voted back

"But, people also know me," she said. "But people always reserve louder for Josel and Kris. I am just happy to be still here in the game."

Three weeks ago, Reinerio was booted out of the competition, having received the lowest number of text votes—about 10,000. She managed to return after a wild card round, where she and Mari Bautista were voted back into the game.

Asked to answer her detractors, Reinerio said she would lend one of the titles if she was seen to be too pasty with Jaleel. "But I leave no titles where I would be on the brink of text votes," she admitted.

The six survivors, including Alan Alcoriza and Rhet Escudero, had a mall show in the city Wednesday afternoon, performing for at least a thousand fans who would also be marveling dreams of stardom.

PRINCE Stefan is overwhelmed by the welcome he got from the people of his home province.

DANCING with an ethnic performer at the Iloilo airport with the other "Starstruck Survivor 6" upon arrival on Wednesday

JOINT: Mischa, Alan Alcoriza and Prince Stefan during a mall show later in the day

ROUNDUP

Anti-piracy support

THE MOTION PICTURE ASSOCIATION (MPA) ASIA PACIFIC Entertainment Pre Global Audiences has hailed the Optical Media Board under the stewardship of chief Edu Manzano for its ongoing enforcement efforts.

MPA executive vice president John C. Malcolm cited Manzano's dedication and achievements in 2006 for which the OMB chief was given the association's inaugural Jean Prolle Copyright Enforcer of the year (ACE) award during the Cannes Convention in Beijing, China last December.

Malcolm pledged that his association will work closely with the Philippine government to protect intellectual property rights.

'Musical' outfits

Film was the official outfitter for the cast of "High School Musical" in Asia, produced by Ateneo de Manila's Blue Repertory members.

The musical follows the story of popular high school basketball star Troy Bolton (Hank Azaria) and smart, multi-genius Gabriella Montez (Kheil Rivera) as they discover that they share a secret passion for singing.

High School Musical fashions are available at Rustans by Giordano, SM Megamall, SM Mall of Asia, Robinson's Galleria, Beauval Mall and Market!Market!

"HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL"

'Amazing Race Asia 2'

Producer ABS has made the call for Racers to put their skills and endurance to the test in the second season of ABS's "The Amazing Race Asia 2."

Interested participants living and/or working in Asia (and adjoining countries, New Zealand, and the Middle East) may submit their applications as teams of two.

Contestants must be aged 21 and above, speak English and possess only a valid driver's license and an international passport.

Registration will close on March 30.

'Feast Bazaar'

Discovery Travel and Living's "Feast Bazaar" examines the food, culture and community of craftsmen and women whose families have been producing these goods.

The 10-part series leads viewers on a grand tour of the markets of Morocco and Paris.

Hosted by English-born, Melbourne-based chef Barry Vasis, the series airs every Wednesday from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. with replays the following Monday at 12 p.m.

"FEAST BAZAAR"

HK film market

Ebenezer E. Dayrit, chairman of the International Film Festival Committee of the Film Development Council of the Philippines, announces the participation of the Philippine delegation to the Hong Kong Filmart, the largest film market in Asia, from March 20 to 23.

The FDCP is sponsoring the cost of the trade booth at the Gateshare producers will have a venue to sell their local films and interwork with international buyers and filmmakers.

Members of the Philippine delegation to the Filmart that include President Consultant on Entertainment Alfredo Yu del Rosario and Vincent del Rosario of Viva Films; Rosalie Montenegro of Regal Films; Joey Marcos of GMA Films; Tess Fuentes, Annalyn Ching and Carrie Raymundo of Star Cinema; Tikoy Aguilar of Cinemanila; Atty Rachel and Dean Arabelo of Canary Films and Octopus Films; Atty Joji Alonzo of MLR Films; Rose Concepcion of ZEST Graduate School of Business and Arsen Ortiz and Marisol Abdurahman, buyers of Filipino film and TV content for foreign territories.

For details, visit www.fdcp.com/hkfilmart.

'Carmen' weekend treat at Star City

STAR CITY BALLET MANILA stages one of the most popular ballets, "Carmen," every Saturday 7:30 p.m. at the Star Theater. The shows which runs until May, stars Md. principal ballerina Lisa Maraya Elizalde in the title role.

"Carmen" is the ballet version of a spicy telenovela and combines the elements of drama, romance, obsession and betrayal that Philippine audiences love.

The mysterious Carmen lures the once upright military officer Don Jose into a life of adandon and perdition, only to leave him for a dashing matador, Escamillo. Broken and desperate, Don Jose attempts to save his love...only to lose his sanity in the painful process.

The one-act ballet in five scenes will be presented free to the public as part of Ballet Manila's advocacy of bringing classical ballet to the people.

Open daily from 2 p.m. onwards, Star City is located at the CCP Complex, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City.

LISA Maraya Elizalde plays 'Carmen at the Star Theater.

X Axis album launch

The X Axis band launches its album "Exercise" under GW Plano Music Corporation on March 20, 8 p.m. at Avida, Tomas Morato, Quezon City.

The band is composed of Neal Arroyo (vocals), Jh Mercena (rhythm guitar), Hendrix Avila (lead guitar), James Mendoza (lead guitar) and Bernie Gallejo (drums).

Maxxima bikini summit

This summer, Maxxima brings sexy back via the "2007 Maxxima Bikini Summit: Take It Under ground"...the competition that identified the owners of some of the industry's hottest bodies and bosoms.

Bruce Javier, Carlo Macalo, Oscar Espelargales, Jordan Herrera, Martin Ackaya, Jessica Montecillo and April Burgasco have enjoyed successful careers in modeling and show business after competing in the Summit.

Maxxima takes the Summit to the streets of Metro Manila via a topgarden-themed party, which would blend hip-hop, dancehall, reggae and techno.

The Summit has always been known for mixing the hottest trends in fashion and music.

In 2005, they brought different styles of music—classical, pop, hiphop and rock—together in a pageant-concert at the Araneta Coliseum.

It will be held in Metro Manila on April 21.

Today

Mon Mercado at Starmall Edsa-Shaw

Empress Schuck at Metropolis Bar Alabang

DJ Mariano at Metro Pbl Resthbar, Mcdonald

March 20

Dale Adelstein at RJTV Bar

New Minarets at Merk's Bar Bistro, Greenhill 3

March 21

D' Daughters at Metro Pbl Resthbar, Mcdonald

RJ with the Mellow Yellow Band at RJTV Bar

Wednesday Jazz Festival at Merk's Bar Bistro, Greenhill 3 with Annie Hazell and Merk and Orlando

March 23

"Classic Romance 2: Walking on Sunshine" with Raymond Lauchengco at Teatrino, Promenade, Greenhills

Minarets at Metro Pbl Resthbar, Mcdonald

RJ at Lit Cafe

March 23

The Apple Band at Hard Rock Cafe, Glorietta

Gary V at Robinson's Place Ermita

New Minarets at Grand Boulevard Hotel, Scout Rodriguez

Sinulan at Metro Pbl Resthbar, Mcdonald

March 24

Gary V at Robinson's Place Metro East

Tribe of Levi at Metro Pbl Resthbar, Mcdonald

March 25

Mac Macrohs at Metropolis Bar Alabang

The Apple Band at Hyatt Hotel and Casino Manila

DJ Mariano at Metro Pbl Resthbar, Mcdonald

March 27

New Minarets at Merk's Bar Bistro, Greenhill 3

Dale Adelstein at RJTV Bar

March 28

Casey Lauzel in Concert at the CCP Main Theater with guests Ind. Lauzel, Deidre Lauzel and Nicole Asensio 8 p.m.

MP Strings at Metro Pbl Resthbar, Mcdonald

RJ with the Mellow Yellow Band at RJTV Bar

March 29

"Classic Romance 2: Walking on Sunshine" with Raymond Lauchengco at Teatrino, Promenade, Greenhills

Minarets at Metro Pbl Resthbar, Mcdonald

March 30

New Minarets at Grand Boulevard Hotel, Scout Rodriguez

March 31

Nashelle Ann Ko at Starmall Edsa-Shaw

Anna Oss at Merk's Bar & Bistro, Greenhill 3

April 12

"Classic Romance 2: Nothing on Sunshine" with Raymond Lauchengco at Teatrino, Promenade, Greenhills

April 19

"Classic Romance 2: Nothing on Sunshine" with Raymond Lauchengco at Teatrino, Promenade, Greenhills

SHOW TIME

X AXIS BAND

Persistence pays off for 3 local bands

By Pichole Concepcion
Contributor

PERSISTENCE IS A VIRTUE.

That was how the Beatles bagged a recording contract with EMI London—after being turned down by Decca, an old major label whose executives thought the group wouldn't amount to anything.

Here in the Philippines, we have three bands whose persistence served them in good stead.

JOIN THE CLUB

Join The Club is a pop-rock quartet with a punk-driven sound reminiscent of the Ramones. Its members, all music majors from UST, refused to back down after several failed attempts to snag a recording deal.

In debut CD, "Rebelde" (Immortal/Warner), was actually released in 2005 but was repackaged recently to include videos and acoustic versions of several tracks. Playing live for the press during the formal album re-launch, Join The Club pulled out all the stops. The performance was marked by tight musicianship and bursts of high energy.

It's not hard to like this band. Some of the songs in "Rebelde" show that as bitter-yet-insightful experiences the objects of a jilted one ("Maiyang Maid-ly"), sending a failed romance ("Minsan Pa"), commemorating a breakdown ("Ungol"), being in denial ("Walking Palabunot"), the day after a split-up ("Letter"), and the cycle of loving and hurting (in the title track).

The sense of frustration in the lyrics is propelled by ripping guitars and a perky rhythm section whose drummer, Poc Santiago, has professed to have been influenced by Edmund Pomares, Mark Stevens and Stewart Memenger.

Vocalist Ribay Revira, who also plays the guitar, says the music of Join The Club seeks to "perfect the art of heartbreak and pantsay" but, also audience. Revira serves all the songs and also sings it a voice that stretch like a wide-eyed teenager emerging unfazed by emotional turmoil.

REVIEW

CHICOSCI

Chicosci is the former Chino Science Project that Club Droid owner Butch Sandoval raved about in the 1990s.

Although it never really cracked the mainstream even after recording three albums, this band has its own set of fans that faithfully show up and sing around town.

On its fourth and CD (Universal Music/MCG), Chicosci assumes a Gothic persona and smears an imaginative batch of songs dripping with gory scenes of vampires cavorting in the night.

The titles attest: ("I Was A Slave," "The Devil Made Me Do It, "Survive," "Years Killing Me," "Manila Teenage Break Squad," "Chicosci Vampire Social Club," among others) are potent clues to the creepy mood and theme of the music.

CHICOSCI

In most tracks, vocalist Miguel Chicosci sounds like an exasperated Robert Smith; on a few occasions he sounds like a demented metal head. Generally he pays the vampire character quite well, enhanced by the rattling sting of the band led by guitarist Miguel Alcantara.

Pairing this CD among friends may be more conducive if you don the appropriate chic fashion—black eyeliner, lipstick and pale makeup, although 10 years out of date. Having both at Chicosci's nocturnal androgynous look on the CD covers and imagine how much fun he's having wherever Chicosci bands with its fans on moonlit nights.

LOKOMOTIV

Lokomotiv is the hot new group founded by ex-members of the disbanded Razorback and Pedigree. They came together in the Lokomotiv demo, where vocalist Jared Arnaiz, guitarist David Aguirre and drummer Wolf Gomez have been living for the past few years.

In its debut outing, "Back N' Sadi Smash Hit" (EMI), the band (assisted by bassman Cadillac Cruz, ex-Dawn Gonzalez, who also has to complete the metal-infused juggernaut that Lokomotiv defines.

Aguirre's riffing is no good than the songs' lyrics don't even matter anymore. They're illegible, anyway due to heavy panning of the CD's beats. But what they're about is the confusion of astounding anger, disappointment, frustration, regret and outright near despondency or extreme unease that surprised young people encounter.

Listening to "House of Jazz," "Ride 9MS Mo," "Stairs of Bricks," "Robots at Home," "Dime Getsal," "Sophisticated Lady" and "Free Mind," is like watching a whole army of boarding kids, dazed and confused by their own crimes and misdemeanors, coming but seeking redemption from evil, and finding themselves in a brother figure in the lead vocalist, "Master Sidnaction."

Lokomotiv is currently based in LA but is reportedly preparing to woo Manila. Already it has seen the departure of Arnaiz due to creative differences. But a replacement was quickly made and it looks like the final records to go long-term, because Aguirre persists on chasing his rock'n' roll dreams.

Other new releases

ALPHA MUSIC CORPORATION has released a 15-track compilation featuring up-and-coming and established indie bands.

Titled "Indie Grooves in Orbit, vol. Three," the album includes modern rock ballads such as Camden's "Obviously Blind," Audio Jekyll's "Sorry It Is Long," Silkthread's "Tayle," Phatter of Paris' "Smuggling," Kartoon Channel's "Separate O Dalun Alas" and The Spill's "You Don't Understand Me."

Other featured bands are Shifting Sand, Spoons, Alamid, Cover Me Quick, Pop Filter, Skeleton 88, Last Transcend Mac.

Praise hits

Praise Music has released two new albums—Amy Grant's "Time Again: Amy Grant Live" and Josh Groban's "Awake."

Grant's latest release includes well-loved classics like "The Word," "In A Little While," "Saved By Love," "Lead Me On," "Baby Baby" and "I Will Remember You."

Groban's

And album

is his most

personal as he

re-scores

four tracks.

Both collections are available at House of Praise outlets. Check out bookstores and record bars.

Latest single

Barbados Mrs Go's current single "Don't Say Goodbye" is from her latest album "Obsession,"

which was produced by Christian de Walden of Lollypound.

The Viva artist's third studio album contains 11 originals from songwriters in Europe, the United States and the Philippines.

The other songs in the album are "And Me Boy," "Kaun ng ating Mga Puso," "The Most Hi Love," "Count One Day" "I Will Always Love You Anyway," "Walk Into My Life," "Find You Love Me," "My Forever Love," "Be Sure," "You Are My Obsession," "Something in the Air" and "Jump Jive."

OPM album

MCA Music's debut in first OPM artist, Jolianne, with her debut album "Untold," which features the single "Kulang ng Isang."

MICHELLE ANN GO

"My music is me," says the singer-songwriter, who wrote all 11 tracks in her album. "It's something that evolves the same way I'm growing as a person."

Dance tunes

Teen idol Gerald Anderson introduces a new summer dance craze to the tune of the dance hit "Don't Play With Your Noodle (Lo Lo Lo)," performed by the duo Gold Cobra.

The single on the CD "Sotalds Noodle Dance" comes with a music video with step-to-follow dance steps and routines.

Also in the album are the 2006 track of "Dale Candelo," "Bat Cold Get Stressed," "Somebody's Watching Me," "Hours Love By night," "Lahat Ito," "Bad Boy," "Dark Play Mate," "Space Cowboy," "Sugay Girl," "Skeeze" and "Big Fat."

SARAH GERALD ANDERSON

ENTERTAINME

Hugh Grant, the world's wittiest 'miserable' man

LOS ANGELES—HE MUST BE the world's wittiest miserable man.

Hugh Grant came up with the term himself... he said he is a "miserabilist." In one Friday interview, part 1 of our press-con with the actor, he claimed it an amazing discovery to have been miserable since the '90s, because of the pressure to maximize his success.

If he has to wear tight pants and high heels on an '80s pop-star fan-boys in the film "Music and Lyrics" to keep his niche as one of modern cinema's leading romantic-comedy stars, so be it.

Hugh's co-star, Drew Barrymore, described in a separate interview how one scene featuring the "miserabilist" failed her: "He's in those tight pants and high heels and these sort of necklaces in a sexy '80 movie scene. Hugh Grant. Indies. I kept thinking, this is going to be great for people to see. He was in no other and striking an attitude different from what we've seen him in his other movies. It would already very odd for him to do something like that but I thought he did a good job."

Later clarifying that maybe "he's not that miserable," Hugh remembered the main character of the book he has been trying to write for years: "What I've done is take all the worst aspects of myself and extrapolate facts while in to this monster. So I've created this really dull, big-nosed, moaning and-heavy."

And when asked what put him in a bad mood, after pausing "a good while," he deadpanned, "My liver perhaps."

If all miserabilist folks were like Hugh, let's have more "miserabilists" in the world.

For someone who claims to not like work, you seem remarkably obsessed about returning with your roles—and pleasing them.

I've got two modes... totally lazy doing nothing or, once I've signed on, absolutely obsessive professionals because of the terror of humiliation. If I'm going to do a comedy and it's not going to be funny, that is unbelievably humiliating in a worldwide manner. The fear of humiliation makes the mind focus.

Is it true that you never had any real interest in music?

I know it's unmusical but it's true. I blame my parents. They never played any music maybe once a year. It's baffled me. I can't put on some Brazilian bossa-nova dance music (laughter). I still find that quite stirring (laughter). My mother actually played the piano. When I learned to play the piano for this film, I suddenly understood why it's soothing.

You did such a good job, though.

Actually there's music in my family, especially on my mother's side. They're all highly musical. It's just me and my brother who are hopeless. There used to be a big family get-together at Christmas and everyone would sing carols. It was atrocious, really. Each family would disband and sing carols. When it got to me and my brother, the whole thing came to a grinding halt. We just wouldn't hold a note. Now I have confidence. I could virtually sing for you now.

Can you talk about how you trained to sing, dance and play the piano?

I had tons of piano lessons and that's actually gratifying. It's one of those few things in life where there's a direct correlation between the amount of work I put in and the progress I make. It's weird. I practice and practice and it's memorable and I can't do it.

Singing was just a question of having these fantastic record producers around me who were very clever with the computer. I sing like a bloated fat by the time I've finished with it. It sounds unbelievable. They can tune me, pen me, I sit on stilts and make my voice deliberately that as a safety net, I gradually got more and more confident.

The dancing thing was really hell because I either have that or don't. I emphatically don't. They got this brilliant choreographer who does all those top girls, Britney (Spears) and Christina (Aguilera) and everyone. He (Dave Karsky) and I would bang each other in a cold downtown dance studio last January. He said, "Okay, I am going to put the music on and just express yourself." Or put the music on and I just stood rock still for half an hour (laughter). I just couldn't do it. In the end... I say this jokingly but it's actually true—I had to resort to alcohol and drugs to get me through that (laughter). But who dances when they're not drunk? So one.

Marc Lawrence told us he gave you a piano as a gift at the end of the filming. Are you now playing the piano regularly?

I am so ashamed. That piano is still sitting in its cardboard box (laughter) downstairs in my house. I mean to go with it. I just haven't.

Why have you not been on the London stage?

My feeling about the theater is that it's great fun for the actors and unmitigated misery for the audience. If one is brutally honest, about one time out of the 30 times one goes to the theater is actually an enjoyable experience.

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Rhubert V. Nepudet

Everyone is invited to join
MARIAN PILGRIMAGE
Lourdes and Fatima
with FR. CORSIE LEGASPY
as pilgrimage chaplain
on May 2007
For more details, please call
Iloilo Dog Shopping
look for Viel or Airyn
Limited Slots Available

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION
MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

Hugh Grant, the world's wittiest 'miserable' man . . .

From page 6

The rest of the films, I was just thinking, 'Oh, so bored. I can't wait for my gin and tonic at half-time. I want to get out.' So I can't justify the pleasures of acting on stage. Performing comedy on the stage is a lot easier and more fun than doing it on film.

Outrage, whom I got that first laugh, I knows I'm old. But part of my problem is, the last time I did go onstage with a comedy, every time I got a laugh, I was so thrilled that it made me laugh as well (laughter). That's a problem.

You seem to choose only romantic-comedies and nothing else.

It's only interesting to do acting in a field where you think well, I'll pretty good at this. I'm better than most actors and when I do very deep, dark, serious things, I'm OK but I think there are other people who could do it better. When I do light comedy, I think I've got something to offer so that's really why I make those choices.

Did you find the humor in 'Nine Girl'—disturbing?

Sasha Baron Cohen is a Cambridge graduate and probably one of the most intelligent men in the country. I am afraid I do absolutely adore Borat. That channel 4 night up the alley I watched the movie again last night on the hotel's video. I think that was a work of rare genius.

Hollywood is full of folks who talk about the craft of acting. Do you find that ludicrous?

I don't see the whole it is bad, looks, actually. I think probably it is because so often you see a child actor, seven years old, giving an absolutely perfect Shirley Temple performance and you realize that child has had no training. They haven't had to give this an awful lot of thought or theory or talked the arse off it. They just do it. It's just pure talent and I think that's **really what it is. An extraordinary** measure of mystique is built around a lot of the acts, particularly actors. We're in the world capital of fine art bullshit right now (laughter).

Have said that only you can do what you did—take a hiatus from acting for several years and still be successful when you come back.

I'm not so sure that's true. The digestive tract of the American public is pretty harsh. It's as true as long as your last films have made money, the studios are still prepared to employ you.

You no longer have an agent—is **surely in Hollywood.**

I've been a skeptic about agents for all of my career. I think there may be times when having an agent would be good [for beginners. In the past — agents [may have been] really intimidated because they saved about the person they represented. But I think it has become a bit of a business now I personally have never wanted, particularly, to go to any school from any agent. All I've ever done is grind my teeth when seeing a check for 10 percent of my income so I wish I'd done this for without my agent) years ago. My agents were positively chuckling. I just didn't need them or see them.

'I've never asked to be near a golf course when I'm shooting, but I'm furious if I'm not'

I'm not agent there to take care of the nasty business for you, to get much more money for you?

That's the theory but it's not so in practice, actually. As a start, I have friends in the business...studio executives. When I agree to do a film, I always call them and say, how much do you think I should be paid for this? They'll call up the real figure and say she is what you're worth. That doesn't always really tell what your agent's going to ask for because the agents are in favor, if not collusion, with the studio as they are with their own clients so they may have agreed to a much lower price. The whole thing is entirely external (laughter).

So for the last six films I've acted a studio executive friend, what you think I should be paid? They give me a number and then I've told my agent that's the number. You just go away and get that. They're no bargaining poll[ition to have there for getting it wrong. They then say, "Well, you should get a lawyer to do that. So you then have to get one of those ghastly Hollywood lawyers also taking a percentage (laughter) to get you a price which frankly you could have gotten to the first place, just between you and the studio. So it's one of the great issues of life.

For you, what are the pros and cons of fame?

The pros are money, attention and having your vanity stroked the whole time, expensive hotels and all those luxury things that I enjoy so much. I love all that. The cons—lack of privacy.

Sean Connery reportedly requested that his filming locations should be close to the golf course. Do you request that, too, and what is your handicap?

I've never demanded that. I become regelf-aware but I'm furious if I'm not. My (golf) addiction is out of control. You ask me how much I'd like to play. I'd like to play from the moment I get up till the moment I go to bed. There's really nothing wrong with me. I haven't [know why] it is and if you think about how much I've played over the last six years, I should have a lower handicap than I do. But I've bought my way to a seven-handicap through millions of hours.

We heard that you're a wine connoisseur. How did you become an expert?

I am not really a big connoisseur all that happened was that my father drank a lot of wine (laughter). Consequently, my child hood and served (at wine even when we were children (laughter). He always used to say, "Yeah, you should have some." I think that's very civilized. Wine was very important to him. My mother hated it. My father used to have to go into the toilet to spray the second bottle every night in the days and hide the cork coming out of the bottle (laughter).

I remember in one of the many interviewers I've done in my career, I'd start a hobby. One hobby was reading up about wine. I bought the "Sainsbury's Book of Wine." Sainsbury's is a big supermarket there's in England. I kept a wine diary and made lots of notes (laughter). I still have that diary. It's incredibly pretentious, especially as it was always written when I was drunk so it will say "I particularly like this Pinot Noir. It flirts with the palate before kissing in the gut" (laughter) and stuff like that.

So do you collect wines?

I don't collect. Word just got out that I liked wine, which is really a nice way of saying he's semi-alcoholic (laughter). I am gonna ask [for lot of wine parts salary by Hollywood. When they're trying to humor me up, I get a case of delicious La Tour or something.

BLOOMBERG

JOINT PROPERTY AUCTION

PNB

as much as **35%** discount on lots

as low as **10%** interest

ALLIED BANK

CEBU - LEYTE - SAMAR

MARCH 22, 2007 • THURSDAY • 2:00 PM • MANGO

PARK HOTEL General Maxilom Avenue, Cebu City

PRIME PROPERTIES

BOHOL

CEBU

EASTERN SAMAR

LEYTE

ADDITIONAL PROPERTIES

CEBU BOHOL REGIONAL DESK

DAVAO

MARCH 29, 2007 • THURSDAY • 2:00 PM • GRAND REGAL

HOTEL Km.7, J.P. Laurel Avenue, Bajada, Davao City

SOUTHERN MINDANAO REGIONAL DESK

✓UPTO 35% ON DISCOUNTS
✓INTEREST RATES AS LOW AS 10%
✓PAYMENT TERMS UPTO 10 YEARS

- 15% DOWN PAYMENT FOR LCCI
- 15% DOWN PAYMENT FOR SQUATTERS PROPERTIES
- 20% DOWN PAYMENT FOR OTHERS
- EMPLOYMENT STAT OR LOAN w/ SALARY ASSIGNMENT & CHECK (NO DEPOSIT NO PARTICIPATION)
- FOR DETAILS ABOUT BUYERS PLS. BRING PROOF OF INCOME (ITR, COE/ ID OF EMPLOYMENT, BANK STATEMENT, ETC.)

Please Call PNB AMS SALES III - Auction Team
AUCTION INQUIRY: MANILA HEAD OFFICE
TEL NOs: (02) 632-2662 | 526-3131 | 891-6040

	Locals	Cell #
JOEY	2013	0920-7112238
JAY-AR	4535	0917-8878621
JOHN	7212	0928-8701868

PNB ACCEPTS REAL ESTATE BROKERS

PROPERTIES FOR SALE ARE ON AN "AS IS WHERE IS" BASIS. PLEASE CONFIRM ATTENDANCE TO ENSURE SEATS.

Hugh Grant, the world's wittie

Do you prefer red or white wine?

I'm more of a red wine drinker. While white does evoke strange things to me, I get the hard-to-pickies. Do you ever get that? In the middle of the night, suddenly you feel like, I've got to go for a long sauvie. I don't know what that is.

In "Music & Lyrics", two people crack in their first get to messy on where they had sushi when. Have you ever felt stuck in your life and what kept you moving?

Even at this moment in my life, I've been trying for so many years to write this book. You know what I have quite a strong girlfriend who shakes me like a rat and says you got on with it and pump much. Sobh a pain to my head. I have managed to actually write some pages. It does need stop outside influences.

in that what you need in your life, a strong friend?

That's what I like, yes. [laughter]

Can you elaborate on the appeal of a strong woman to you?

I don't know the answer to any of this stuff. I expect it has all to do with one's mother. My mother was quite a strong woman; I think that men who have strong intellect get quite attracted to strong women.

India is all about about Elizabeth Hurley's wedding. Were you invited?

I don't think many people, unless they get married, invite their ex. So I am not at all bitter. There's no bad feeling or whatever.

Can you tell us more about this book that you are trying to write?

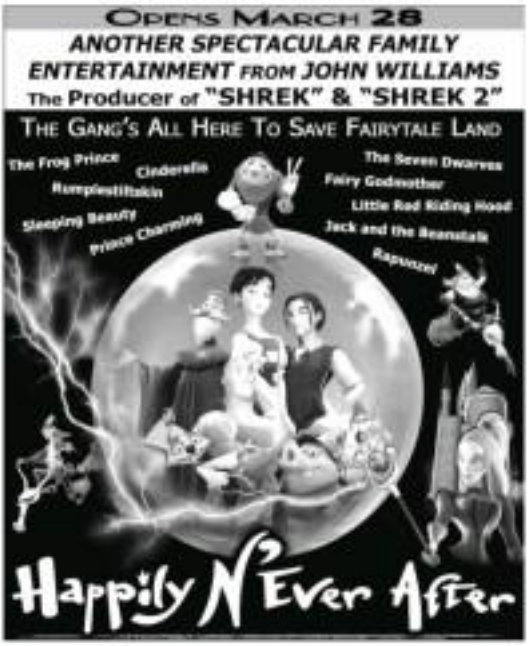
It's an idea I actually had 10 years ago. I have been making notes. The key is...I'm not entirely sure what the story is yet. I'm 80 pages in. I don't know where we're going but it quite like that. I know who the lead character is, what the style is and what the tone is.

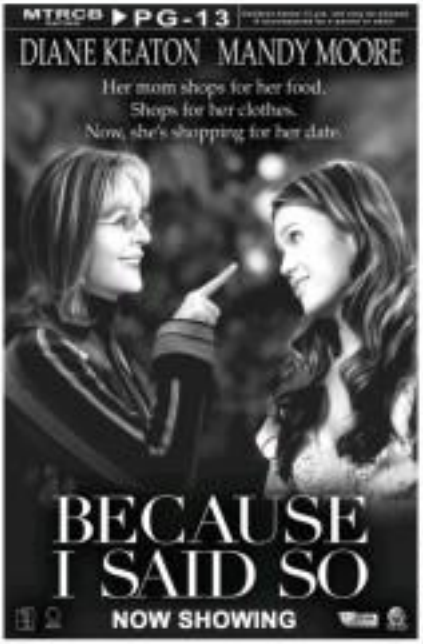
This is a line from the movie: "Inspiration is for amateurs." What do you think of that?

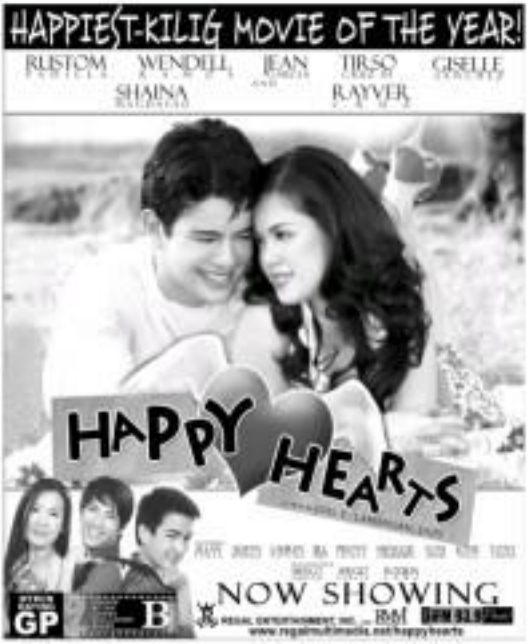
I like that quote. I think that's a really good lesson. I mean say when I sit there trying to write this book, on days when nothing comes, I often think of that and everyone will tell you the same. Every professional writer always says you just go on even on the bad days. I think that's a good lesson in life actually.

Is the book completely fiction or is it semi-autobiographical?

What I've done is take all the worst as-







st 'miserable' man

From page 44

parts of myself and extrapolate them wildly into this monster. So I've created this really chilling and depressing antihero [laughter] and that's the main character.

Are you already in talks with a publisher?

Sometimes from interviews like this, a buzz starts that I'm thinking of writing a book. Then I get a little deluge of letters from publishers but the problem with that whole celebrity publishing thing is that they publish almost anything.

But they give you an advance for. Wouldn't that be an incentive for you?

I am not sure. I don't really know how advances work. I've got a nasty feeling that I wouldn't really care if I missed the deadline so I think I'd rather march to my own drum on this one.

In our last conference with you, you were very guarded subtly your answers and very much afraid of being misinterpreted. This time, you are answering freely. What brought on this change?

Nothing. Honestly, it's just mood. I can't explain it like that has been a three-day junket. First day I was cautious and elusive, the second morning, it's just reason or all I was is nervous. Couldn't bear to speak to anyone. I don't know how I am going to be from moment to moment. Schizophrenic.

What causes you to be in a bad mood?

I don't know. My liver perhaps [laughter].

E-mail the columnist at rmpadua_2006@yahoo.com.

OPENS MARCH 21

HOW DO YOU SAVE SOMEONE WHO IS ALREADY DEAD?

SANDRA BULLOCK

PREMONITION

ASSET MANAGEMENT SECTOR

We manage for best value

INVITATION TO BID

The Asset Management Sector of the Philippine National Bank (PNB) is inviting bidders to purchase for way of outright sale on an "as-is-where-is" basis the following residential / commercial properties in Tuguegarao City, Cagayan Valley:

1) A vacant building with commercial / residential lot area of [illegible] sqm, improvements [illegible] sqm, minimum bid price at Php [illegible];

2) Adjacent lots with 4-storey building, located at [illegible], Tuguegarao City, lot area [illegible] sqm, improvements [illegible] sqm, minimum bid price at Php [illegible];

Terms of Payment: [illegible]

Terms and Conditions:

a) Bidder should use the "Purchase Proposal Form" available at the branch office and accompanied with the 10% deposit of the offer price;

b) The 10% deposit should be in Manager's or Cashier's Check and payable to "PHILIPPINE NATIONAL BANK";

c) Co-signed bids / bid below the minimum bid shall be rejected;

d) If the bidder is a corporation, a copy of its Secretary's Certificate authorizing the Board of Directors / Officers to participate in the bidding / authorize a Secretary's Certificate or Special Power of Attorney (SPA) to represent the said corporation;

e) PNB's decision is final and binding on the winning bidder. The withdrawal of bids shall be allowed once the winning bid has been announced by the PNB. Any withdrawal of bid by winning bidder shall result in forfeiture by PNB of deposit made;

f) In the event the winning bidder failed to comply with the specified payment terms, the 10% deposit shall be forfeited as penalty and the sale shall be automatically cancelled;

g) PNB shall be responsible for the payment of [illegible] Withholding Tax (CWT) up to the selling price only, and any excess shall be for the account of the winning bidder. All other expenses such as documentary stamp tax, transfer tax, registration fees and other fees / taxes are issued to the account of the title in the name of the winning bidder shall be for the exclusive account of the winning bidder;

h) PNB reserves the right to reject any or all bids in its sole discretion. And to any defect or irregularity in the bids received and accept the bid deemed advantageous to PNB. Only qualified bidders will be notified;

i) PNB reserves the right to withdraw the offered property at any time before the deadline of submission of offers for any purpose;

j) PNB does not assume any obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify any bidder for any expense that may be incurred in the bidding process.

Submission Procedure: The sealed offer must be labeled "Tuguegarao Public Assets Bidding Location of Property" not to be opened before 10:00 am" [illegible] Sealed offer and check payment must be submitted on or before [illegible] to Mr. Ronnie G. Ocampo Jr., Administrative Staff Assistant, Philippine National Bank, Tuguegarao Branch, Rizal Street, Tuguegarao City, Cagayan.

For clarification, please contact Marcos Andres Ong, Assistant Vice President, Asset Management Sector at telephone number [illegible].

glorietta · GREENBELT · ALABANG TOWN CENTER · AYALA CENTER CEBU · MARKET! MARKET! · Ayala Malls

AT THE CINEMAS

TFX

G1	1	HAPPY HEARTS	2	[illegible]	3	[illegible] MYSTIC ISLAND	4	PATHFINDER	
G4	1	BECAUSE I SAID SO	2	PATHFINDER	3	DREAMGIRLS			
	4	ACTION ICEBREAKERS	5	THE GOOD SHEPHERD	6	[illegible]	7	THE PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS	
GB1	1	[illegible]	2	BECAUSE I SAID SO					
GB3	1	DREAMGIRLS	2	[illegible]					
	3	THE PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS	4	PATHFINDER	5	BECAUSE I SAID SO			
ATC	1	[illegible]	2	DREAMGIRLS					
	3	BECAUSE I SAID SO	4	THE PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS	5	PATHFINDER			
ACC	1	[illegible]	2	BECAUSE I SAID SO	3	THE GOOD SHEPHERD	4	EPIC MOVIE	
M2	1	HAPPY HEARTS	2	[illegible] MYSTIC ISLAND					
	3	BECAUSE I SAID SO	4	[illegible]	5	PATHFINDER			

LIVE VIA SATELLITE

from the Alamodome, San Antonio, Texas, USA.

No Commercial Break! Larger Than Life!

Our very own Manny Pacquiao is back in the ALAMODOME where he first clinched the championship belt in his rematch and Marco Antonio Barrera 4 years ago. Now another Mexican, hungry & undefeated, stands in the way of our People's Champ.

Be part of this thrilling event in Solar A/C Screen & Ayala Malls Cinemas near you

The WBC International Super Featherweight Championship

PACQUIAO vs SOLIS

APRIL 15, 2007 Sunday • 8:00 AM

GLORIETTA 4 • GREENBELT 3 • GLORIETTA 1

ALABANG TOWN CENTER • AYALA CENTER CEBU • MARKET! MARKET!

At the Activity Center

GLORIETTA	ALABANG TOWN CENTER
[illegible] Tuguegarao Cagayan Valley Feb 23 to March 18, 2007	Amazon's Exhibit March 7 to 23, 2007
AYALA CENTER CEBU	MARKET! MARKET!
Looney Tunes presents Lights, Camera... Showtime! March 16 to 18, 2007	[illegible] March 16, 2007

Greenbelt 3 Break Free presents Collection of Lilo Almario March 7 to 16, 2007

Repertory Philippines presents GAY BIRDS at REP's Onstage Theatre - March 16 to April 1, 2007

Registration Ongoing for Summer Art Workshops at Ayala Museum

Plumbing London's secret civilization

REVIEW

It's not an animals vs humans story that other animated feature films have tried exploring

By Oliver M. Palanianin
Lead Critic

THE occasionally cliche but visually inventive "Flushed Away" is the latest animated collaboration between DreamWorks and Aardman Features, which previously worked together on "Wallace and Gromit: Curse of the Were-Rabbit."

In the movie co-directed by David Bowers and Sam Fell, we enter from opposite sides of London street and become allies in an adventure filled journey. Roddy St. James (voiced by Hugh Jackman), a posh pet mouse flushed down the toilet ends up in the sewers and discovers a colorful, thriving subterranean populated by rodents and other creatures. Rita (Kate Winslet), a foul-mouthed, in the early one remonstrated and clever enough to bring Roddy back to the surface.

Substantial, too

Except for the smells and certain canned-dwelling bugs, the animals in "Flushed Away" are lopsided and semi-humanoid like Mickey Mouse or Goofy. It's not an animals-versus-humans kind of story that some recent animated features (Ant Bully, Over the Hedge) have tried replicating. It doesn't bother too much with heavy preaching, and is more of a traditional adventure-comedy about buddy-movie friendships and, yes, "unexpected" heroism.

There's substance, too, from start to the culture shock, Roddy discovers that there's much more to life than a pampered lifestyle.

Unique villain

But until Roddy is given an imposing adversary, the rascal's crime lord figure Toad (Ian McKellen). The rascal civilization is conveniently oblivious to the scheming villain's grand plan, deeply rooted in his hatred for rodents. Toad certainly is unique, with a unique hobby—collecting memorabilia from above— not your run-of-the-mill megalomaniac.

Also in the cast of voice actors is Jean Reno, as Toad's more French cousin Le Frog, and Andy Serkis and Bill Nighy as Toad's gullible sidekicks Spike and Whitey. They all do well.

Clean & bright

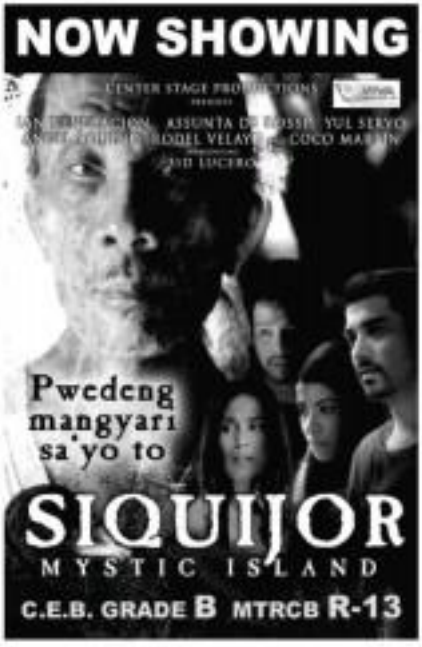
Jackman adds sophistication and some puppy-love charm to Roddy (the scene even sings), while it's nice to hear Winslet voice cleverly conveying Rita's frustrations and vindictiveness through her spoken lines.

Though set mostly in a supposedly filthy location, the film shows a clean and bright hand.

Animation-wise, it replicates the classic Aardman style—with solid looks and movements that feel like they've been in clay-motion. Since it is done digitally, subtle improvements are handily presented, and some special effects have been incorporated, particularly in scenes that involve moving water and large, complicated environments.

Winning figures

"Flushed Away" embraces new technology for many shrewd reasons, but it still very much feels like stop-motion animation, especially when specific figures are concerned. Characters' wide, cheerful grins help, as they may not appeal quickly to fans of the beloved "Wallace and Gromit." But they win you over just like comics.



FEEDBACK

Pinoys updated

From Evelyn Vergara-Rosenbed (evergara@philsa.pssd.ch):

Thanks to Ms. Segarra's column, we are updated on Filipino filmmakers featured in festivals in the US. Indeed, independent Filipino filmmakers have been making waves in the international scene (since the time of de Quesada, Bird and other Mowelfund-ers in the '80s) but there are a few relatively unsung/unsung/journalistic who have featured these compared to mainstream films.

Filipino filmmakers have duly proven themselfe world cinema market and film festivals not only in Hollywood but also in Switzerland, where "Batad" by Benglo Guerta will be in official competition at the 32nd Freiburg International Film Festival, which opens today. Proof that there are good and interesting films Filipino.

Agree

From Catherine (cathy@globetrotter.net), 987 Millard Ave., Toronto, Ontario, Canada:

I agree with you wholeheartedly that one of the other actresses (in "Jeanne gale") should have won the Oscar. I guess the academy got so affected with [Jennifer Hudson's] singing that all she sees when she looks at the window—even times of in good sense.

Not cute

From Ellie (Ellie.Dejesus@aol.com), 711 pennsylvania park, New York,NY 10011):

Let's say Bamboo's movie is OK. But would somebody tell him that it's not a "Pinoy" thing to drawn or look silly in his pics? Isn't not that good looking to look cute if he does that. He's ugly!

Buder las

From Bebbie Sidey (via e-mail), Silver-mansmen, Maryland:

Great job on the Bernard Bader interview! Thanks for showing us some of the more personal stuff in his life. He is so mild more as you than I ever heard before. It's about time this very handsome, but, hilarious actor got recognized. I think he is great...as do many of his fan-celebrations fans (and on other fan Pinkasten, too!).

Ashamed!

From Ogie Segaya (ogie@pldtdsl.net, segaya-ben.com):

Filipinos here in the US were waiting for AJ Tabaldo to mention that he was of Filipino origin in his previous interviews and interviews but he didn't. Sad he done so, we Filipinos would have rallied behind him. He felt he was ashamed to mention that he had Filipino blood. Now, you know why he was booted out.

SM CINEMA movietime SHOWTIME
Your life as a movie

A group of young American friends are heading to Brazil, expecting such as exotic adventure, pristine beaches, beautiful women, open culture, the nightlife.

Or so they thought, when they found themselves trapped and stalked the morning after in an isolated community, where they discover secrets lying underneath.

Watch how they Friends escape their exotic adventure.

OPENS MARCH 21

IMAX

movietime exclusive presents

BATAD

Now showing at these SM Cinemas on digital:
Cebu, Clark, Davao, Fairview, Mall of Asia, Manila, Megamall, North EDSA, Pampanga, San Lazaro, Sta. Mesa, Southmall

one, two, FREE!

Promo runs from March 16, '07 until 18, 2007.
Promo valid at Fairview, Manila.

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE

CINEMA ACCESS
635-5555
FOR ALL BRANCHES

www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

GALLERIA

1 THE PURSUIT of HAPPYNESS • TAKE
2 300
3 PATHFINDER
4 DREAMGIRLS
5 Reserved for VICTORY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
6 Reserved for VICTORY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
7 SIGAUIOR
8 inDaBlind: COMPOUND
9 BECAUSE I SAID SO
10 HAPPY HEARTS

OPENING ON WEDNESDAY !
A BLOODY WEEK!

Jon Red's
ANAK NG TINAPA

Ato Bautista's
SA AKING PAGKAGISING
MULA SA KAMULATAN

ONLY AT INDIESINE, Robinsons Galleria!

ERMITA

1 300
2 SIGAUIOR
3 DREAMGIRLS
4 HAPPY HEARTS
5 BECAUSE I SAID SO
6 PATHFINDER
7 The PURSUIT of HAPPYNESS

METRO EAST

1 DREAMGIRLS
2 300
3 YOU GOT ME
4 HAPPY HEARTS
5 The PURSUIT of HAPPYNESS
6 BECAUSE I SAID SO
7 PATHFINDER
8 THE GOOD SHEPHERD

NOVALICHES

1 PATHFINDER
2 HAPPY HEARTS
3 DREAMGIRLS
4 BECAUSE I SAID SO
5 YOU GOT ME
6 300

PIONEER

1 300
2 PATHFINDER
3 BECAUSE I SAID SO
4 DREAMGIRLS

STA. ROSA

1 300
2 MUSIC and LYRICS
3 HAPPY HEARTS
4 BABEL
5 YOU GOT ME

LIPA

1 FLUSHED AWAY
2 BRIDGE to TERABITHIA
3 IT'S A BOY GIRL THING
4 YOU GOT ME
5 MUSIC and LYRICS

DASMARINAS

1 EPIC MOVIE
2 300
3 HAPPY HEARTS
4 IT'S A BOY GIRL THING

ANGELES

1 BECAUSE I SAID SO
2 HAPPY HEARTS
3 EPIC MOVIE
4 300

IMUS

1 BECAUSE I SAID SO
2 HAPPY HEARTS
3 PATHFINDER
4 300
5 THE HITCHER
6 YOU GOT ME

STARMILLS

1 EPIC MOVIE
2 HAPPY HEARTS
3 YOU GOT ME
4 BECAUSE I SAID SO
5 THE HITCHER
6 IT'S A BOY GIRL THING

BACOLOD

1 300
2 ARTHUR and the INVISIBLES
3 HANNIBAL RISING
4 HAPPY HEARTS
5 FLUSHED AWAY
6 YOU GOT ME

ILOILO

1 300
2 HAPPY HEARTS
3 BLOOD and CHOCOLATE
4 ROME and JULIET
5 THE HITCHER
6 IT'S A BOY GIRL THING

BLAZE of GLORY

APRIL 15, 2007 - SUNDAY - 8 AM

TICKET PRICE: P500

P&G Trans-Jolie, left, chats with other kids at the orphanage.

Where superstar Angelina Jolie is just an ordinary girl

HO CHI MINH CITY, Vietnam—When Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt showed up at a Vietnamese orphanage last fall, most of the staff had no idea they were Hollywood superstars.

"They looked very much like ordinary people," said Bui Thi Binh Tuyen, a nurse at the Tam Binh orphanage where Jolie adopted the newest member of her family, 3-year-old Pax Thien Jolie-, on Thursday.

"We thought that they were just an ordinary couple that wanted to play with the kids and give them presents," Tuyen said. "They let us take lots of (pictures)."

Jolie shared crayons and silver pictures with the kids. "We could already see that she had a heart for children," said Tuyen, the nurse who had been in charge of visiting Pax since he arrived at the orphanage as an infant.

ANGELINA Jolie leaves Tam Binh orphanage with Cambodian-born son, Maddox, 5. AFP/FILE

"Mr Vietnamese name was Truong Quang Sang, but we just called him Sang," Tuyen said. "Mr. is a very lively boy but sometimes when he saw strangers he would become shy and often cried."

Tuyen said Pax was of average size for a Vietnamese child his age — 92 centimeters (3 feet) tall and 13.5 kilograms (32 pounds).

Big change

"His past could be long, so I don't think he realizes much that his lifestyle will be completely different now," Tuyen said. "He is very lucky to be adopted by a famous one."

About 350 children live at the Tam Binh orphanage on the outskirts of Vietnam's booming southern business hub, Ho Chi Minh City.

Pax shared a room with about 20 of them, where they slept in one room of beds in a 30-square-meter (320-square-foot) room.

Now he is staying in a Ho Chi Minh City luxury hotel with his mother and his new brother, 5-year-old Maddox, whom Jolie adopted in neighboring Cambodia.

It was not known how long Jolie would be in Vietnam, although a local government official said Thursday that the reward probably stay until somewhere next week.

US officials must issue a visa before Pax can travel with his mother to the United States. Visa are usually issued in the capital, Hanoi, about two hours south of Ho Chi Minh City by plane.

No sibling

In addition to brother Maddox, Pax's other two siblings are 3-year-old Zahara, adopted from Ethiopia, and another child, Shiloh, born to Jolie and Pitt in May.

Pitt did not travel to Vietnam with Jolie this week. She filed the adoption papers herself because the couple are not married.

Like Tuyen, orphanage vice director Ho Thi Kim Thoa had no idea who the superstars were when they first teamed up at Tam Binh during a surprise visit last Thanksgiving.

"We did not realize that they are famous movie stars until the next day when we saw their photos in the papers," Thoa said.

Another orphanage staffer who identified herself only as Sin, said she was also surprised to learn she had rescued pairs with Hollywood stars.

"I wish I had known," she said. "I would have brought a camera with me and had my picture taken."